1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT			
2	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS			
3	HOUSTON DIVISION			
4	LADDY CURTIS VALENTINE and .			
5	RICHARD ELVIN KING,			
6	Plaintiffs, . Civil Action			
7	VS No. H-20-CV-1115			
8	BRYAN COLLIER, ROBERT HERRERA, and . Houston, Texas TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, . July 13, 2020 . 9:16 a.m.			
9	Defendants			
10	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS (HELD REMOTELY)			
11	BEFORE THE HONORABLE KEITH P. ELLISON			
12	BEFORE THE HONORABLE REITH P. ELLISON  BENCH TRIAL - DAY 1 - MORNING SESSION			
13				
14	APPEARANCES:			
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	1	PROCEEDINGS
	2	July 13, 2020
	3	THE COURT: Welcome to all of you. We have some
	4	preliminary matters I thought we might take care of before we
09:16:16	5	get started with opening statements.
	6	Let me ask Plaintiffs: A few members of the
	7	class have asked to be excluded from the class. Does Plaintiff
	8	have any objection to excluding those who request exclusion?
	9	MR. KEVILLE: No, your Honor, we have no objection.
09:16:35	10	THE COURT: Okay. On the briefing schedule for the
	11	motion for summary judgment, I think we're going
	12	THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, Judge. I couldn't
	13	hear you. I think someone's cell phone was ringing.
	14	THE COURT: The briefing schedule for the motion for
09:16:54	15	summary judgment, we're going to use the standard schedule as
	16	provided in the rules.
	17	The post-trial briefing schedule, the briefs will
	18	be due from both parties three days after we finish the hearing.
	19	Now, we have this emergency motion oh, the
09:17:15	20	motion in limine. I don't worry too much about motions in
	21	limine when I'm sitting without a jury. I think we need to
	22	minimize the time we spend on the matters that are the subject
	23	of the motions in limine, but I think I can decide what's
	24	relevant and what's not without granting the motion in limine.
09:17:33	25	Now, there's an emergency motion to enforce. I

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1 need to hear some argument on that. It's Plaintiffs' motion so
        2 | we'll start with Plaintiff.
        3
                     MR. KEVILLE: Yes, your Honor. John Keville, and I'm
           going to turn it over to David James for that.
        5
09:17:46
                     THE COURT: Okay.
        6
                     MR. JAMES: Good morning, your Honor. This is David
        7
           James.
        8
                          As we said in the motion, this is about a motion
           to compel hospitalization records which was granted on July 8th.
       10
          We had not received the documents -- any documents that were
09:18:06
       11
           remotely responsive when we filed the motion. Later, Sunday
       12
           night, we did receive a declaration which states that it is not
           attesting to the factual accuracy of the document or where the
       1.3
           information came from; but it does purport to list
       14
       15 hospitalization information for Pack Unit inmates.
09:18:29
       16
                          You know, I don't know whether Defendants are
       17
           willing to stipulate to the accuracy of that document.
           they're not, then we certainly still need the actual documents;
       18
           and I mean, I don't really understand Defendants' position on
       19
       20
           the issue because during the hearing Defendants agreed to
09:18:51
           provide the documents by Thursday; and we didn't get anything
       22
           until Friday they sent us another version of the same snapshot
       23
           sort of declaration that we had previously been complaining
           about and said that was good enough on Saturday.
       2.4
       2.5
                          So, I just don't know why it's -- what the
09:19:08
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problem is in actually getting the documents. This would really 1 simplify the dispute. We know that several different types of 3 documents would show exactly what we've been asking for. 4 And quite frankly, Defendants have been willing 5 to go search medical records for their own case even though 09:19:27 we've been asking for this specific -- we've been asking for all 6 7 positive inmates' medical records since the beginning of this case; and we narrowed that to the hospitalization records which would actually be very small because TDCJ doesn't actually hold 10 the hospital records, they just hold the record saying, "We sent 09:19:48 11 them to the hospital." 12 But TDCJ has decided they're not going to give us 1.3 that, they're going to create some weird declaration; and they keep on changing their position without getting us the evidence 14 that we've asked for. So, that's -- we're at a loss, but we 15 09:20:03 16 need the answer of how many people have been hospitalized with COVID-19 from the Pack Unit. 17 18 Thank you, your Honor. 19 THE COURT: Did you have a current total of how many 20 people have been -- have tested positive and how many people 09:20:16 have died? 2.1 22 MR. JAMES: Your Honor, they did e-mail us over the 23 weekend that a 19th person have died. Based on the documents 24 that we received, it does appear that we have a total of 25 positive cases of about 487. 09:20:32

	1	THE COURT: 487?
	2	MR. JAMES: Yes, 487, including people who are no
	3	longer at the prison but were tested while they were at the
	4	prison. So
09:20:45	5	THE COURT: Have they gone to other prisons or have
	6	they been released?
	7	MR. JAMES: So, 19 are dead. So, they're no longer at
	8	the prison. I don't know the exact location of all of them, but
	9	I think about 409 are still at the prison.
09:20:59	10	THE COURT: Okay.
	11	MR. COWLES: Your Honor, may I provide an update?
	12	THE COURT: Yes, you may.
	13	MR. COWLES: Yes. Thank you, your Honor.
	14	This is the Shawn Cowles, Texas Attorney
09:21:09	15	General's Office on behalf of the Defendants. It's nice to at
	16	least see you in person via Zoom. I wanted to provide the Court
	17	with
	18	THE COURT: Nice to see you. Nice to see you.
	19	MR. COWLES: Thank you, your Honor.
09:21:12	20	I wanted to provide the Court with an update at
	21	the outset. I'm happy to do so as we go through this trial as
	22	often as the Court would like.
	23	So, as of the numbers from yesterday, there have
	24	been these are all numbers at the Pack Unit, of course. So,
09:21:31	25	at the Pack Unit there have 1,863 negative tests for offenders,

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there have been a total of 481 positive offenders, offenders who
        1
        2 have tested positive for COVID-19.
        3
                          Of that 481 number, 413 are recovered positives.
           There are currently five hospitalizations; and there have been
09:22:02
          19 deaths, your Honor.
                     THE COURT: Okay. Now, as to the documents that
        6
        7
          Mr. James is talking about, what's the problem on these?
        8
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Your Honor, TDCJ has recently as
           yesterday --
       10
                     THE COURT: Who is speaking, please? Who is speaking?
09:22:19
       11
           Is this Ms. Vasquez?
       12
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Yes.
       13
                     THE COURT: Yes, Ms. Vasquez.
       14
                     MS. VASQUEZ: This is the Christin Vasquez, your
       15 Honor.
09:22:37
       16
                          We provided a comprehensive list of all of the
       17
           Pack Unit hospitalizations that we have a record for yesterday,
       18
           your Honor.
                          Regarding medical records, those are things we
       19
       20
           would have to get through UTMB; and it is going to take an
09:22:48
           extensive amount of time is my understanding. So, regarding
       21
       22
           records that TDCJ has regarding the Pack Unit hospitalizations
       23
           for COVID-19, we have provided that.
       2.4
                     THE COURT: Okay. Where are we not communicating?
09:23:09 25
           Tell me -- what is it that -- Mr. James, that you want that you
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1 don't have?

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09:23:31

09:23:46

09:24:06

09:24:24

MS. VASQUEZ: It's my understanding that Mr. James wants medical records, and that's going to take more than the time we have to obtain and provide, and that would be from UTMB.

MR. JAMES: Your Honor, I just -- I apologize that the Court doesn't have the benefit of this document. It was served after the motion was filed which was filed more than a day after I asked Defendants to tell us immediately whether they were going to provide us anything.

But regardless, the first page is a declaration of the deputy director of prison jail operations; and all he attests to is that his information received but not factually verified by my office concerning Pack Unit offenders who were transported to hospitals and who stayed in the hospital overnight.

So, if that is -- if it is a comprehensive document as counsel just represented, then it's what we need. I mean, I don't -- I don't -- I don't know it to be true that it is difficult to get the information that they're describing. I think that there are other categories of documents that are responsive as we listed in the motion.

This document would have been pulled from one of those documents. They created a new document instead of giving us the underlying document. I also wanted to briefly address just to clarify the numbers. I think counsel said that there

09:24:41 25

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1 were over 1800 tests; but that does not represent the number of
        2 unique individuals who have been tested, if I'm understanding
           correctly, unless there were 600 inmates brought into the Pack
           Unit and tested and then taken out again. It was probably a
          maximum of 1248 tests. Anyway, so --
09:25:00
        6
                     THE COURT: You're wondering if these are -- some
        7
          people got tested twice? Is that what you're wondering?
                     MR. JAMES: Your Honor, we know that several people
        8
           were tested twice. I don't know how many; but I just wanted to
       10
           make that clear from counsel's update.
09:25:17
       11
                          So, back to this document. If TDCJ is going to
       12
           agree that this is what the Court -- this represents the
       13
           information that the Court already ordered them to produce, then
           I guess my only complaint is that it was provided on Saturday.
       14
                          And -- and you know, I think that it's -- it was
       1.5
09:25:37
       16
           ordered on Thursday; but we can address that issue later. If
       17
           they're willing to -- regardless of this declaration -- I just
           want to be clear the declaration does not say that any of this
       18
           is accurate or that they even know where this came from.
       19
       20
           says information received in the passive voice.
09:26:00
       2.1
                          So, if TDCJ notwithstanding this declaration is
           willing to say this is everybody who is hospitalized, then I
       22
       23
           quess we can proceed with this. I mean, I don't -- without the
           document, I don't know whether I even believe that to be true;
       24
09:26:31 25
          but this has hundred names on it.
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	1	THE COURT: Ms. Vasquez, is that an omission an
	2	accidental omission on the declaration? Are you saying are
	3	you representing this document is accurate?
	4	MS. VASQUEZ: It's my understanding, your Honor
09:26:47	5	it's my understanding that the information that TDCJ receives
	6	regarding hospitalizations is very informal. It's by phone
	7	calls, and it's information that's transmitted.
	8	So, it's my understanding that there is no
	9	document that that is underlying this chart that was created.
09:27:07	10	This is what TDCJ knows regarding the hospitalizations from the
	11	Pack Unit related to COVID-19.
	12	I don't know what the purpose, you know,
	13	Plaintiffs want to use this document for, this information for.
	14	THE COURT: Well, but whatever they want to use it
09:27:26	15	for, it would be helpful to know that the document is accurate.
	16	Let me ask about the negative tests. How do you
	17	arrive at that number? All the tests all the tests that were
	18	used as to the entire population including retests? Is that it.
	19	MS. VASQUEZ: That's correct, your Honor.
09:27:51	20	THE COURT: So, we don't know if one inmate was tested
	21	four times, another was tested zero times?
	22	MS. VASQUEZ: The way that the Strike Team testing
	23	works, your Honor, is they start by testing everybody at the
	24	Pack Unit. Then, the next Strike Team test tests the people who
09:28:10	25	were not previously tested or that test negative. And then, it

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they test
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ar me?
before we

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move to opening statements, your Honor, if we may.
        1
        2
                     THE COURT: Okay.
        3
                     MR. COWLES: First, we had requested -- and I have a
          feeling I know the Court's order; but I just wanted to get this
09:29:35
           official. We had requested an advisory jury pursuant to Federal
           Rule of Civil Procedure, Rule 39. Has the Court denied that
        6
        7
           request?
        8
                     THE COURT: Yeah, I'm going to deny that. I -- for a
           number of reasons. The most significant is I have not since
           mid-March asked any jurors to report for duty. I'm concerned
       10
09:29:51
       11
           about the ramifications to their health.
       12
                     MR. COWLES: Understand, your Honor.
       13
                          And then, secondly, last question. I apologize
       14
           for not keeping up with the technology. I'm sure it will get
       15
           better as we go through our first Zoom trial here. But on our
09:30:08
           motion in limine, did the Court deny that?
       16
       17
                     THE COURT: Yes.
       18
                     MR. COWLES: Okay.
       19
                     THE COURT: I don't worry too much about motions in
       20
           limine when I'm sitting without a jury because I don't think
09:30:18
       21
           there is anybody who will be misled or enraged by statements
           that I think are clearly irrelevant.
       22
       23
                          Okay, let's proceed with opening statements then.
       24
                     MR. KEVILLE: Thank you, your Honor. John Keville for
       2.5
           the Plaintiffs.
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THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Before you start, for
        1
        2 some reason I can't see anybody. It says, "You are viewing
          Plaintiffs' exhibit display." Is that something that -- am I
           the only one who can't see anyone?
        5
                     THE COURT: I can see Mr. Keville, and I can see
        6 Ms. Vasquez, and I've been able to see --
        7
                     THE COURT REPORTER: Okay. I'm good. I'm good.
          Thank you. I'm sorry.
        8
        9
                     MR. KEVILLE: Okay. I think that's just a function
           that we're going to put up some slides during the opening.
       10
09:31:11
       11
           it may go back and forth.
       12
                          All right. Are we ready?
       13
                     THE COURT: Yes.
                     THE COURT REPORTER:
       14
                                          Yes.
       15
                     MR. KEVILLE: All right. Good morning.
09:31:15
       16
                          Your Honor, as this Court knows and everyone on
       17
           the call knows, COVID-19 is one of most fast-moving, highly
       18
           contagious, infectious diseases we're ever seen in this country
           requiring us to social distance, wear masks, avoid big crowds,
       19
       20
           and stay in our homes as much as possible.
09:31:35
       2.1
                          But inmates in prisons can't do many of these
       22
           things and are disproportionately at risk. And the Pack Unit is
       23
          much more so. It's the highest risk among the high risk and the
          hardest hit.
       24
       25
                          The Pack Unit is not a common Texas prison.
09:31:49
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houses around 1200 inmates, more than 800 of whom are over 65;
        1
        2 many others with comorbidities that make them especially
          vulnerable. These numbers, your Honor, are from earlier
           official statistics we have. I think the number now is 1179 or
          in that range.
09:32:08
        5
        6
                          Nevertheless, the vast majority of the inmates in
        7
           the Pack Unit are elderly and have other health issues that make
           them extremely high risk. They live in dorms that have short
           walls, providing no separation from those around them that would
       10
          protect them from COVID-19.
09:32:24
       11
                          This is -- showing on the screen Plaintiffs'
       12
           Exhibit 226 at 24. This comes from Warden Herrera's declaration
           for the preliminary injunction hearing. You'll note in this,
       1.3
       14
           your Honor, the low walls that the inmates have which do not
           prevent separation and have them very closely packed together.
       1.5
09:32:41
       16
                          And you'll also note the inmate janitor in the
       17
           background after the lockdown, after the regulations, the
           Guidance 14.52 that they put in place, is cleaning wearing no
       18
       19
           gloves.
       2.0
                          Now, in the preliminary injunction hearing and
09:33:02
       21
           before, Dr. Young warns that the Pack Unit was like a tinder box
       22
           where COVID-19 virus would spread rapidly if immediate action
       23
           was not taken. He explained that Leonard Clerkly's death was a
       24
           spark.
       25
                          Dr. Young and Dr. Gathe stressed the need for a
09:33:18
```

1 plan for repeated testing among other cautions. After hearing 2 the evidence, the Court ordered Defendants to immediately make such a plan and to put in place common sense CDC-recommended 4 safequards. 5 Unfortunately, instead of heeding the experts' 09:33:33 6 warnings and following this Court's quidance, TDCJ sought and 7 was granted a stay of the injunction preliminarily on the basis that the inmates had not exhausted their administrative remedies; and now, COVID-19 at the Pack Unit is a raging fire. 10 Your Honor, what we have is a comparison of the 09:33:53 11 COVID-19 positivity rate from the State of Texas where the 12 positive rate is 8.84 percent, to TDCJ across all prisons where the positivity rate is 8.45 percent, to the Pack Unit where it's 13 14 38.41 percent, six times the number across all the other TDCJ 1.5 prisons -- five times roughly. 09:34:17 16 And I'm not sure where the disconnect is where 17 Mr. Cowles this morning said 481 positive. The documents they have produced show 487 discrete individual positives; but 18 nonetheless, it's an astounding large number. 19 2.0 Nineteen people are dead. Much has been heard 09:34:37 from Defendants already about the need for class members to 21 22 exhaust their grievance remedies before filing, but TDCJ's 23 grievance procedure was not capable of use to obtain relief in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, and instead, was a literal 2.4 25 dead-end, as these numbers clearly show; and TDCJ knows and knew 09:34:55

1 that. 2 A month after arguing for a stay based on the 3 failure to exhaust the grievance process, on May 26, TDCJ changed the policy and cut the grievance time from its original 80-to-160 days down to no more than 30 days. TDCJ recognized 09:35:12 the timeline was too long under the original grievance policy 7 and that a much faster policy was needed in this fast-pace pandemic. That's why we can say for certain the original policy provided no available remedies. 10 Beyond that, to establish an 8th Amendment 09:35:33 11 violation based on a failure to prevent harm, we must show, one, 12 that the inmates are incarcerated under conditions posing a substantial risk to serious harm. I trust that is not really in 13 14 dispute with COVID-19 already having killed 19 and infected over 15 400. 09:35:51 16 Second, we must show that the prison officials' failure to act manifests a deliberate indifference toward that 17 risk; and there are two ways, your Honor, that we will show 18 19 deliberate indifference: You will hear --2.0 (Interruption.) 09:36:04 2.1 THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Keville. 22 MR. KEVILLE: First, your Honor, you will hear that 23 TDCJ adopted guidelines, its policy 14.52, intended to be based on the CDC guidance; but having a policy alone doesn't save 2.4 09:36:26 25 lives; and the evidence will show that the Defendants often pay

lip service to what their policies require. 1 2 In addition to Mr. Valentine and Mr. King, you 3 will hear testimony from ten other inmates, each of whom will explain how much TDCJ ignores its own policies; and just for a few examples to preview what you'll hear: As to isolating 09:36:42 COVID-19 positive results, Policy 14.52 says, "Offenders should 7 be kept in medical isolation until at least three days, 72 hours, have passed since recovery defined as, one, resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications; two, improvement in respiratory symptoms, e.g., cough, shortness of 10 09:37:04 11 breath; and three, at least 14 days have passed since symptoms 12 have appeared. 13 You'll hear from Mr. Beal, one of the inmates at 14 the Pack Unit, who tested positive but then was put back into 15 Dorm 17 after a 14-day quarantine even though he was still 09:37:22 16 symptomatic, including coughing, shortness of breath; but he had no fever. He told medical and security personnel that he had 17 these other symptoms, and both told him they were following the 18 19 policy, and there was nothing they could do. 2.0 As another example of what you will hear: Policy 09:37:39 14.52 also requires cleaning. "During the COVID outbreak" --21 22 The next slide, if you could, Allen. 23 "During the COVID outbreak, all units should 2.4 disinfect common areas and surfaces that are often touched with 25 a ten percent bleach solution." It also requires "Thoroughly 09:37:57

	1	cleaning and disinfecting all areas where suspected or confirmed
	2	COVID-19 cases spent time.
	3	"Staff and offenders performing cleaning should
	4	wear gloves and gowns." We've already seen they've put in their
09:38:11	5	own evidence of inmates cleaning without gloves.
	6	In arguing against the preliminary injunction
	7	with regard to enhanced cleaning, TDCJ said this.
	8	Go to the next slide, Allen.
	9	No, that's not it.
09:38:28	10	So, what TDCJ just said, your Honor
	11	You can put there we go.
	12	They said to this Court what Pack has done
	13	regarding this item and that's the cleaning. Said, again,
	14	there's one, at least one inmate janitor assigned to clean each
09:38:41	15	common area. There are at least four janitors assigned to the
	16	E Dorm and at least three janitors assigned to the trustee camp.
	17	Also, there are additional janitors assigned to
	18	the infirmary, laundry, and kitchen. They all work 12-hour
	19	shifts in which they are permitted breaks; and as part of their
09:38:58	20	duties, they are the officers are assigned to monitor and
	21	observe these janitors cleaning to ensure the cleaning is
	22	happening and is on a consistent basis. That's what they told
	23	this Court.
	24	You'll hear testimony, your Honor, from Mr. Dove,
09:39:12	25	one of those inmate janitors. He is, essentially, blind and in

a wheelchair; and he cannot perform these critical functions. 1 It is the height of deliberate indifference to say that a blind, wheelchair-bound inmate is responsible for cleaning during COVID-19. 4 5 You'll hear testimony from the inmates regarding 09:39:30 other things TDCJ hasn't done, such as guards not always wearing 6 7 masks and quards cross-contaminating dorms. You'll hear they're not always providing additional soap, that they have not increased the number of janitors, that they have not increased the amount of cleaning supplies provided for many of the 10 09:39:47 11 inmates, that they have not reassigned bunks to achieve more 12 space, that they're not cleaning the showers, that they're not 13 making accommodations for the mobility-impaired. 14 If TDCJ and its staff do not implement and comply 1.5 with the guidance, their own guidance, that is deliberate 09:40:04 16 indifference; and that is one way the evidence will prove deliberate indifference. 17 18 The second way is that its deliberate 19 indifference to treat the Pack Unit the same as every other 20 prison in Texas with regard to COVID-19. 09:40:19 2.1 You will hear that TDCJ knew the Pack Unit was a higher risk population from the very start of this pandemic, but 22 23 they adopted a one-size-fits-all policy, and one size did not 24 fit all. 25 The inmates at the Pack Unit are paying the price 09:40:33

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1 for that indifference. The numbers are indisputable as I showed
        2 | before: 487 positive, 19 dead. 19 dead is 20 percent of the
          deaths in the -- across the entire system. The Pack Unit is one
           of 100 units, and they have 20 percent of the deaths from
           COVID-19.
09:40:56
        5
        6
                          So, what are Plaintiffs asking for? Plaintiffs
        7
          aren't asking for things, your Honor, that will make their lives
          more comfortable. They're only asking for what they need to
           survive: soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectants, cleaning
       10
           materials, protective masks, appropriate distancing,
09:41:15
       11
           dedensification of the dorms, testing and retesting,
       12
           quarantining, and restrictions on movements.
       13
                          In conferences, Defendants have said several
       14 times, compared themselves to the worst disaster areas of
       15
           COVID-19 telling this Court that TDCJ at the Pack Unit is doing
09:41:32
       16
           better than nursing homes in New Jersey. That's not the
       17
           standard that we hold ourselves to in Texas: being better than
           the very worse.
       18
       19
                          Nineteen men have died so far. More are likely
       20
          to. The Pack Unit is one unit out of hundred with 20 percent of
09:41:47
       21
           the deaths. We must have compassion for the men, the prisoners,
       22
           at the Pack Unit, many of whom are elderly and infirm and at the
       23
           highest risk for severe disease and death in this pandemic but
           men who have the least control and depend entirely on TDCJ.
       2.4
       25
          Many have already died because TDCJ has been indifferent to the
09:42:09
```

	1	heightened risk and the heightened needs of the Pack Unit.
	2	The Plaintiffs here are simply asking this Court
	3	to protect their Constitutional rights under Section 1983 and
	4	the ADA Rehab Act. A permanent injunction is desperately needed
09:42:29	5	to contain the fire and save lives at the Pack Unit, and that is
	6	what we are requesting.
	7	Thank you. Your Honor.
	8	THE COURT: Thank you very much.
	9	Okay. Ms. Vasquez or
09:42:44	10	MR. COWLES: Your Honor, this is Shawn Cowles with the
	11	Texas Attorney General's Office. If you'll bear with me one
	12	moment.
	13	THE COURT: Sure.
	14	MR. COWLES: I think we're having some technology
09:42:53	15	issues. But let me see if I can use are you able to hear me,
	16	your Honor?
	17	THE COURT: I can hear you fine, yeah. I can see you,
	18	too.
	19	MR. COWLES: Let me pull up our share screen document.
09:43:08	20	Bear with me one moment, your Honor.
	21	Your Honor, are you seeing up on the screen our
	22	PowerPoint?
	23	THE COURT: I can see it, yeah.
	24	MR. COWLES: Okay, great.
09:44:15	25	So, may it please the Court, again, my name is

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Shawn Cowles with the Texas Attorney General's Office on behalf
        1
        2 of Defendants Bryan Collier, Robert Herrera, and the Texas
        3
          Department of Criminal Justice.
        4
                          Your Honor, this case is not about COVID-19
        5 | because it's undisputed COVID-19 is a lethal viral killer where
09:44:41
        6
           no person and no --
        7
                (Technical interference.)
                          -- is immune. Instead, this case boils down to
        8
        9
           two words: deliberate indifference. This case is about TDCJ's
       10
           response to COVID-19.
09:44:58
       11
                          Let's look at these two words: "deliberate" and
       12
           "indifference." Intentional, purposeful, uninterestedness,
           intentionally unconcerned. This is what the Fifth Circuit --
       13
       14
                (Technical interference.)
                     THE COURT REPORTER: Mr. Cowles, I'm having --
       15
09:45:15
       16
           Mr. Cowles, I'm having a really hard time. You're fading in and
       17
           out.
       18
                     THE COURT: Maybe you can get closer to the mike.
       19
                     MR. COWLES: Yeah. I think, you know, this is just a
      20
           technology problem, your Honor. I'm going to switch computers,
09:45:42
       21
           if that's all right.
       22
                     THE COURT: Yeah.
       23
                     MR. COWLES: So the reporter can hear me better.
       24
                          Your Honor, can you see and hear me any better
09:46:41 25 | now?
```

	1	THE COURT: I definitely hear you.
	2	Gayle, can you hear?
	3	THE COURT REPORTER: Yes, I can hear him better.
	4	MR. COWLES: Thank you.
09:46:49	5	All right. Well, I'm going to pick up, your
	6	Honor, where I left off. So
	7	I'm sorry. Maybe the court reporter wasn't able
	8	to hear me. Do you want me to can you tell me, Madam Court
	9	Reporter, what the last thing you were able to hear me say was;
09:47:05	10	and I'll be able to pick up.
	11	THE COURT REPORTER: Yes. Hold on one second.
	12	"Let's look at these two words: 'deliberate' and
	13	'indifference.'
	14	MR. COWLES: Okay. I'll beginning from there then.
09:47:27	15	Thank you.
	16	What does "deliberate indifference" mean? It
	17	means intentionally ignoring, purposely disregarding, willfully
	18	uninterested, intentionally unconcerned.
	19	The Fifth Circuit in <i>McCormick versus Stalder</i>
09:47:46	20	say, quote, "Deliberate indifference encompasses only
	21	unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain repugnant to the
	22	conscience of mankind."
	23	So, this case is about deliberate indifference;
	24	but it's also in the context of COVID-19 which we know is lethal
09:48:12	25	viral killer. And we've all become familiar in this case with a

1 gentlemen named Leonard Clerkly. Leonard Clerkly, 2 unfortunately, was the first person from the Pack Unit amongst 3 the offenders to test positive for COVID-19 4 Leonard Clerkly passed away at a hospital April 5 11th of this year and then tested positive for COVID-19 two days 09:48:39 later. It's a tragedy, your Honor, that Leonard Clerkly isn't 7 with us today. No one wanted that result, no one on this Zoom trial conference call that we're having, no one at TDCJ, no one at the Pack Unit, none of the offenders. 10 The unfortunate reality is that COVID-19 is a 09:49:04 11 killer despite the best efforts of countries around the globe 12 including our own, despite the efforts of the states in the 13 United States, despite the efforts of TDCJ at the Pack Unit. 14 COVID-19 is a lethal viral killer. No one is going to dispute 1.5 that in this trial from our side, and I'm confident no one from 09:49:35 16 the Plaintiffs' side is going to dispute that. 17 But the real issue is did TDCJ respond to COVID-19 at the Pack Unit with a deliberate indifference? And 18 your Honor, I would like to address head on the elephant in the 19 I understand that the Court has lost faith to a certain 2.0 09:49:56 21 degree in TDCJ, and your trust has been broken down because of 22 other cases; most notably, it sounds like the heat case. 23 I'm sorry that this has occurred. I wasn't 2.4 involved in the heat case. In fact, I wasn't even at the AG's 09:50:16 25 office when that case was occurring; but it sounds like some

very unfortunate things occurred in that case; and I'm sorry for 1 2 that. 3 The question I've been asking myself is how can trust be rebuilt between this Court; TDCJ; myself, as we're just getting to know each other. It's my first time appearing before 09:50:34 your Honor in this case. I can tell you there are new people on 7 our side, your Honor, which is true; but I don't believe that would persuade you to begin trusting our side right now. 9 But here's what I do believe should persuade the 10 Court to start trusting our side: motive. TDCJ is 09:50:52 11 incentivized, your Honor, to rely upon the leading medical 12 experts, to act promptly, to reasonably respond to the risk of COVID-19 because the offender population at the Pack Unit and 13 14 the TDCJ staff and officers are so interconnected, intermingling, interacting that it would be impossible to 15 09:51:23 16 protect one group without protecting the other group. 17 Therefore, even if one were to assume that TDCJ 18 only wanted to protect its officers and staff, TDCJ necessarily 19 would be required to protect the Pack Unit offenders because to 2.0 protect one group is to protect the other and to not protect one 09:51:48 21 of the groups is to leave everyone exposed to the ravages of COVID-19 at the Pack Unit. 22 23 Well, how did TDCJ rely upon its medical experts, 2.4 your Honor? TDCJ deliberately relied upon medical healthcare 09:52:13 25 experts to inform and guide the measures taken by TDCJ in

1 response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These experts include TDCJ's 2 | Health Services Division, and you'll hear from Dr. Lannette 3 Linthicum from that division. 4 These experts also included TDCJ's university 5 medical partners at UTMB and Texas Tech University. TDCJ 09:52:33 purposely relied upon Policy B-14.52 that the Court is going to 7 hear a lot about in this case which was prepared by the Correctional Managed Healthcare System. It has three directors, a combination of Dr. Lannette Linthicum, the medical 10 professionals at UTMB and at Texas Tech. TDCJ deliberately also 09:52:56 11 relied upon the CDC guidance for correctional and detention 12 facilities to formulate their response to COVID-19. 13 I heard the Court state something to the effect 14 that there was a concern your Honor had about whether TDCJ would have done anything without this lawsuit. The undisputed facts 15 09:53:18 16 are that before this lawsuit was filed TDCJ deliberately 17 participated on March 16, 2020, in a meeting with the Joint Infection Control Committee that decided to create a new policy 18 to expressly address this novel Coronavirus and COVID-19. 19 2.0 Also before the lawsuit on March 20, 2020, 09:53:44 intentionally adopted CMHC's Policy B-14.52 which was posted on 22 TDCJ's website the very same day. Three days later after the 23 14:52 policy was adopted by TDCJ, the CDC guidelines for correctional and detention facilities -- correctional 2.4 09:54:10 25 institutions and detention facilities were published by the CDC.

1 What did TDCJ do in response? Four days later on 2 March 27th, TDCJ adopted its first revision to Policy B-14.52. Your Honor, there were six subsequent updates to the original version of the B-14.52 policy which apply to all the TDCJ institutions including the Pack Unit. 09:54:39 There are other actions that TDCJ took in 6 7 response to COVID-19 before this lawsuit was filed. In late February, TDCJ increased the cleaning and disinfecting at the Pack Unit. TDCJ also engaged in daily briefings in March with 10 DSHS, Department of State Health Services. 09:55:00 11 On March 4th, there was a meeting between the 12 executive director of TDCJ, Bryan Collier; Dr. Lannette 13 Linthicum; Texas Tech University; and UTMB to address how to 14 respond to COVID-19. On March 9th, daily briefings began 15 regarding how to address TDCJ. 09:55:22 16 On March 12th, an educational video was produced 17 which was shown and still is shown at the Pack Unit about how to 18 respond to COVID-19, proper and good practices for healthy TDCJ also participated in daily conference calls with 19 hygiene. 20 UTMB and Texas Tech University beginning in the middle of March. 09:55:44 2.1 TDCJ on March 13th suspended the in-person 22 visitation at the Pack Unit in order to effectively have the 23 Pack Unit offenders sheltered in place from people coming in 24 from the outside to visit. 2.5 On March 16th, TDCJ set up a command center at 09:56:04

1 its headquarters to address its responses to COVID-19. This command center is similar to what TDCJ has set up in the past for Hurricane Katrina, other hurricanes, other natural disasters. 5 09:56:26 Subsequently, the evidence is going to show, your 6 Honor, TDCJ also set up a strike command center at the TDCJ 7 headquarters to address and organize the Strike Team testing that this Court is going to hear about that the offenders at the Pack Unit went through in order to determine who had tested 10 positive and who hadn't. 09:56:48 There's a third command center at TDCJ's 11 12 headquarters, your Honor. It's a strike command center for the Correctional Institutions Division of TDCJ that has been set up 13 14 to monitor and address the Strike Team testing. So, well before this lawsuit was ever filed, TDCJ 1.5 09:57:05 16 was taking prompt action that was even ahead of CDC when the CDC 17 quidelines for correctional institutions was delivered -- was published. 18 19 TDCJ acted deliberately to plan its response even 20 before Governor Abbott issued his statewide disaster 09:57:27 proclamation which occurred before this lawsuit was filed. TDCJ continued in close communication with its medical partners 22 23 before and continued after this lawsuit was filed regarding the 24 appropriate response to COVID-19 at the Pack Unit. 2.5 On March 11th, your Honor, the Pack Unit 09:57:54

instituted screening protocols for the visitors -- visitor 1 2 screening before they were coming in which was subsequently 3 closed off as the pandemic increased in its intensity. 4 Your Honor, TDCJ has acted promptly to respond to 5 this COVID-19 which -- you know, it's important to take a step 09:58:17 back here in the middle -- almost the middle of July now -- that 7 just came into our country this year. All of these events are in the year 2020. 9 And TDCJ, the evidence is going to show, has acted in a prompt fashion by advising its employees who are ill 10 09:58:35 11 or running a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher to stay at home, 12 began implementing COVID-19 screening for employees that fell ill at work. 13 On March 24th, your Honor, TDCJ intentionally 14 15 minimized transfers between units based upon an agency and 09:58:56 16 case-by-case need -- needed basis. TDCJ's prompt response also 17 included manufacturing COVID-19 signs and posters to increase the educational awareness of the offenders at the Pack Unit 18 19 about how to practice good hygiene. 2.0 They prepared an offender pamphlet, an offender 09:59:19 21 pocket card. They disseminated the information and posted it in 22 high traffic areas at the Pack Unit in order to educate the 23 offenders about the risk of COVID-19 and what they could do to protect themselves. 2.4 25 TDCJ intentionally inventoried existing 09:59:36

stockpiles of PPE, personal protective equipment, masks, gloves, 1 gowns; began to acquire additional PPE for the Pack Unit and its other units. TDCJ began deliberately manufacturing cloth masks, face shields, plastic gowns as a supplement to its PPE at the TDCJ factories or manufacturing places that it had. 09:59:58 6 Your Honor, after Leonard Clerkly tested positive 7 on April 13th, on that same day the order was issued in the evening, implemented the next day, for precautionary lockdown at the Pack Unit; under this precautionary lockdown, the offenders 10 who had been previously advised before the precautionary 10:00:22 11 lockdown. And social distancing was enforced when the offenders 12 lined up to go to the chow line. 13 Instead of four offenders at a table before the 14 precautionary lockdown, that was reduced to two offenders in order to practice social distancing. Social distancing was 15 10:00:39 16 enforced by the TDCJ officers as the offenders were lining up at 17 their pill window before the precautionary lockdown. 18 But after the precautionary lockdown, in order to enforce an even further quarantine, the offenders are now fed as 19 20 of April 14th through the present date in their dormitories at 10:00:53 2.1 their cubicles to minimize the risk of coming in contact with each other. Also, the offenders are no longer having to line up 22 23 at a pill window, your Honor. The offenders are able to receive 24 their medicines in their own dorm. In response to Leonard Clerkly's positive test, 25 10:01:13

1 what did TDCJ do? TDCJ purposefully tested all of the offenders 2 in Mr. Clerkly's dorm. All of the test results from Mr. Clerkly's dorm-mates came back negative. 4 TDCJ has also responded reasonably, your Honor, 5 to the risk of COVID-19. TDCJ produces its own hand soap, and 10:01:36 offenders are given adequate supplies of hand soap for use by 7 them and the staff. In fact, the offenders are given five bars of soap, the evidence will show, your Honor, per week; and they're able to request more if they run out. 10 Their soap as they're entering into the shower 10:01:55 11 that the offenders can grab on the way, and they're given the 12 opportunity to shower on a daily basis if they want. TDCJ enhanced the cleaning and disinfection of the Pack Unit facility 13 14 in response to COVID. TDCJ also implemented a number of the 15 social distancing measures that I've already talked about and 10:02:16 16 we'll discuss further in the course of this case. 17 One issue that I want to address, your Honor, is 18 the difference between a medical issue and a security issue. A medical issue, your Honor, concerns hand sanitizer; and you 19 20 won't hear any disagreement from the Defendants' experts that 10:02:37 21 hand sanitizer can be one of the items used for a good hygiene practice. 22 23 But what you will hear, your Honor, is that hand sanitizer poses a security issue. That's a twofold security 24 25 issue. First, hand sanitizer is alcohol-based. It's supposed 10:02:57

1 to be made with 60 percent alcohol, your Honor, which alcohol can be used as an accelerant to start and intensify a fire. The alcohol-based hand sanitizer can also be 3 adjusted. Reality in the Pack Unit as well as a number of other 4 institutions is that there have been substance abuse problems; 10:03:21 and unfortunately, during this pandemic, two inmates at a Nevada 7 correctional institution died after drinking the hand sanitizer which necessitated the Nevada correctional institution to remove the hand sanitizer from all of its facilities. 10 So, your Honor, the issue isn't whether 10:03:41 11 Plaintiffs think it would be more reasonable, more appropriate 12 to provide hand sanitizer or even if the Court disagrees with TDCJ's recent decision to not supply hand sanitizers in order to 1.3 14 protect the offenders because soap and water is readily available and TDCJ is complying with the CDC guidelines for 1.5 10:04:07 making soap and water available. 16 17 It's considered relaxing the restrictions on hand sanitizer and made the deliberate determination that the 18 19 security risks are too great relative to the benefit when 2.0 offenders can wash their hands with soap and water as often as 10:04:20 they like, essentially, at the Pack Unit. 22 So, the issue isn't even whether the Court 23 disagrees, finds that policy inadequate. The issue again comes back to our two words that this case is about: deliberate 24 10:04:36 25 indifference. There is no evidence that TDCJ acted deliberately

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indifferent to the risks of COVID-19 for the offenders at the
        1
        2 Pack Unit with regard to hand sanitizer or with regard to soap.
        3
                          I'd just like to real quickly move through, your
           Honor, TDCJ's response has been reasonable; and these are some
10:05:00
        5
           of the signs or posters or items that are at the Pack Unit in
           response to COVID-19 and continue to remain up at the Pack Unit.
        6
        7
                          If we can scroll down further.
        8
                          Bear with me one moment, your Honor. I think we
           have a technological issue.
       10
                     THE COURT: Okay.
10:05:32
       11
                     MR. COWLES: Your Honor, I'm afraid my computer where
       12
           my PowerPoint is on just crashed. We'll pull that back up or
       13
           change out my --
       14
                     THE COURT: We can do that later, yeah.
       15
                     MR. COWLES: My colleague is going to pull this up on
10:05:59
       16
           his computer, I believe.
                     THE COURT: Your 15 minutes has been exceeded. How
       17
       18
           much more do you have?
                     MR. COWLES: Your Honor, if I can just, after we get
       19
       20
           this up and rolling, have two more minutes, I will close things
10:06:15
       2.1
           out.
       22
                          Your Honor, I just wanted to -- we'll start up;
       23
           and I'll close out in two minutes, your Honor. These are just
           some of the slides I just want to go through real quickly to
       24
10:07:28 25
           show what's been posted to educate the offenders about what they
```

can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19, how they can control 1 2 the risks. 3 Are we able to scroll down? 4 Again, additional pamphlets, posters that are up 10:07:45 there, what can be done; identifying the symptoms; how to stop 6 germs; wash your hands for 20 seconds with the soap and water. 7 On the right, your Honor, those are the bars of soap, one of the boxes, the many that are at the Pack Unit; cleaning supplies; the PPE on the left. 10 If we can keep scrolling down. 10:08:03 11 So, lastly, your Honor, I just want to address 12 one final point in the last minute I have. You've heard from 13 the Plaintiffs' counsel that they think that the 19 deaths 14 demonstrate that TDCJ's policy and implementation was insufficient or inadequate. 1.5 10:08:20 16 Your Honor, that is not the standard that is used 17 by the US Supreme Court to determine whether the Defendants can be found liable in this case. Instead, this case, again, comes 18 down to those two words, whether TDCJ acted with a deliberate 19 2.0 indifference. 10:08:36 2.1 And your Honor, I tried to come up with the best analogy that I could for this standard in the application to the 22 23 real world. I found a medical journal article. It stated that 2.4 there are 131 million surgeries performed throughout the world every year. Of those 131 million surgeries, within 30 days 4.2 25 10:09:00

1 million people, unfortunately, pass away. 2 What the surgeons are doing in attempting to save lives does benefit the vast majority of people, but the unfortunate reality of the world that we live in is that in that case 4.2 million people died within 30 days from the surgery. 10:09:27 It's, like, the unfortunate reality for the Pack Unit is that 7 there have been 19 offenders who have died and tested positive for COVID-19. 9 It's an unfortunate reality 135,000 Americans 10 have dialed. It's an unfortunate reality 569,000 people 10:09:46 11 worldwide from the last information that I have seen have died. But the numbers do not establish bad policy or bad implementation or inadequate implementation of the policy. 13 14 Even if they did, your Honor, that is not the standard. The standard is deliberate indifference; and your 15 10:10:05 16 Honor, the relevant numbers are just like the surgeons across 17 the globe save 127 million lives per year, TDCJ has saved the lives of 1,160 inmates so far at the Pack Unit because of these 18 19 deliberate measures that were reasoned and considered and 20 implemented promptly based upon the leading medical authority's 10:10:33 21 quidance and recommendations and have been implemented in the 22 most reasonable fashion, the evidence is going to show, at trial 23 today. 24 We submit that the Plaintiffs -- their evidence 25 goes to a different standard of reasonableness, of inadequacy, 10:10:49

	1	of insufficiency when the legal standard articulated by the
	2	Fifth Circuit, the United States Supreme Court in this case is
	3	one of deliberate indifference for which there's no evidence the
	4	Plaintiffs will be able to establish, let alone persuade the
10:11:07	5	Court, that they met their burden.
	6	And with that, I will stop, your Honor.
	7	Thank you.
	8	THE COURT: Okay, thank you.
	9	Do we want to pre-admit exhibits?
10:11:20	10	MR. KEVILLE: Your Honor, this is John Keville for the
	11	Plaintiffs. We do want to pre-admit exhibits. Unfortunately,
	12	we have a couple of issues. They were unable to discuss that
	13	with us last night. Mr. Cowles said he did not have the time.
	14	Number 2, we got their exhibits; and none of
10:11:37	15	their exhibits have numbers on them. So, we can't tell from
	16	page 1 to page 1,000 where exhibits start and end without
	17	guessing. So, it's going to be very difficult; and we've asked
	18	them to give us actual exhibit numbers; and we haven't received
	19	that yet.
10:11:52	20	THE COURT: Okay. We'll just have to take it exhibit
	21	by exhibit then.
	22	MR. COWLES: Your Honor, may I address one point in
	23	response?
	24	THE COURT: Yes, sir.
10:12:00	25	MR. COWLES: We did speak with the Plaintiffs' counsel

```
1 last night. We had a conversation. Plaintiffs' counsel told me
        2 | it was seven minutes long. The problem was Plaintiffs' counsel
          before our conference call at 8:00 o'clock last night, 21
          minutes before, sent us an amended exhibit list.
        5
                          It just identified 16 new documents. It was 27
10:12:13
        6 pages long. It did not initially contain the documents. They
        7
           subsequently provided them, but I did not have time 21 minutes
           before -- they scheduled the conference call -- when they sent
           us 16 new exhibits that were identified which we didn't have, to
           go through their last minute attempt to change the nature of
       10
10:12:33
       11
           this trial.
       12
                          And Plaintiffs' counsel, I would submit, have
       13 been engaged in a trial by ambush which is entirely unfair.
       14
           They've amended their witness list. They continue to change
           things. And this is not only a COVID-19 pandemic situation that
       15
10:12:49
       16
           we're dealing with, this is a trial three and a half months
       17
           after the complaint was filed.
       18
                          We are doing everything that we reasonably can I
       19
           want to assure this Court; and to say that we didn't have time,
       20
           the context is important. When I'm given an amended exhibit
10:13:05
       2.1
           list 21 minutes before a scheduled conference call at 8:00
           o'clock the night before we're going to start this trial, I
       22
       23
           think that is misleading to this Court; and I wanted to
       24
           correct that.
       25
                     THE COURT: Okay. We'll just have to take the
10:13:21
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```
exhibits as they come up then.
        1
                          Are we ready for the presentation of evidence
        2
        3
           then?
        4
                     MR. KEVILLE: We are, your Honor, for the Plaintiffs.
        5
10:13:32
                     THE COURT: Do you want to call your first witness?
        6
                     MR. KEVILLE: Yes, your Honor. We call Bryan -- oh,
        7
           your Honor, I would like to invoke the rule to preclude the
           witnesses -- the percipient fact witnesses from TDCJ.
        9
                     THE COURT: Any objection to enforcing the rule?
       10
                     MR. COWLES: I just would like the rule to go both
10:13:46
       11
          ways, that --
       12
                     THE COURT: Of course. Of course.
       13
                     MR. COWLES: -- it's going to be all witnesses are
       14 precluded other than the testifying witness. Is that what your
       15 Honor is going to be enforcing?
10:13:57
       16
                     THE COURT: Yes. But normally -- there's arisen
       17
           something of a common law exception to the rule which is that
           experts are not subject to it. Now, do you intend to exclude
       18
       19
           experts, too?
       2.0
                     MR. KEVILLE: Your Honor, for the Plaintiff, we would
10:14:11
       21
           not intend to exclude experts. I think the experts need to hear
       22
           what is --
       23
                     THE COURT: That's the reason for the exception.
       24
                          Is that agreeable, Mr. Cowles?
       25
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Your Honor, this is Christin Vasquez.
10:14:25
```

```
1
                          We agree --
        2
                     THE COURT: You say you don't have a problem --
        3
                     MS. VASQUEZ: -- that the experts should be able to
           watch the testimony. I just want to clarify for the Defendants
           that the parties, including the TDCJ 30(b)(6) witness, will be
10:14:38
           allowed to watch the testimony.
        6
        7
                     THE COURT: Well, the parties aren't subject to the
           rule at all. The parties can listen to anything they want.
        8
        9
                          Okay. Let's proceed and the rule will be
       10
           invoked. Parties will be allowed to hear all the testimony.
10:14:56
       11
           Experts will be allowed to hear all the testimony.
       12
                          Okay. Your first witness, Mr. Keville.
       13
                     MR. KEVILLE: Your Honor, we call Bryan Collier.
                     THE COURT: Okay. Is he going to appear in person or
       14
       15
           by deposition?
10:15:11
       16
                     MR. KEVILLE:
                                   In person.
       17
                     THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Collier then.
                          Mr. Rivera will administer the oath. If you'll
       18
       19
           raise your right hand, please.
       2.0
                          Okay. Is Mr. Collier on the premises?
10:15:45
       2.1
                     THE WITNESS: Good morning, your Honor.
       22
                     THE COURT: Good morning.
       23
                          Raise your right hand for the administration of
       24
           the oath.
       25
           //
10:15:59
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(The witness, BRYAN COLLIER, Defendant, called on behalf of
        1
        2
           the Plaintiffs, was sworn.)
        3
                     THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Collier.
        4
                          Your inquiry, Mr. Keville.
10:16:16
        5
                     MR. KEVILLE: Thank you, your Honor.
        6
                                AS ON CROSS-EXAMINATION
        7
          BY MR. KEVILLE:
                Good morning, Mr. Collier.
        8
        9
                Good morning, sir.
       10 Q
                You are the executive director of the Texas Department of
10:16:19
       11
           Criminal Justice, TDCJ, correct?
       12
                Yes, sir.
           Α
       13 Q
                Executive director is the highest position in the agency?
       14 A
               Correct, yes, sir.
               You oversee the activities of TDCJ?
       15 Q
10:16:29
       16 A
                Yes, sir.
       17
                TDCJ is responsible for the operation of correctional
       18 facilities or the prison system in Texas which includes 104
       19
           prisons around the state, correct?
       20 A
10:16:44
                Yes, sir, that is correct.
       2.1
                The Pack Unit is one of those 104 prisons, correct?
       22 A
               Yes, sir.
       23 Q
                And there are a large number of staff that work at those
       24 104 prisons, correct?
10:16:58 25 A
                Yes, sir.
```

- 1 **Q** And there's a significantly larger number of inmates at 2 those 104 prisons, correct?
- 3 A Yes, sir.
- 4 Q The safety of the staff and of the inmates in those 104
  10:17:10 5 prisons is of the utmost importance to you and to TDCJ, correct?
  - 6 A Yes, sir, it is.
  - 7 **Q** As to your specific staff, the Correctional Institution 8 Division director is Lorie Davis, correct?
  - 9 A Yes, sir.
- 10:17:25 10 Q She reports directly to you?
  - 11 A Yes, sir.
  - 12 **Q** Lorie Davis is responsible for the day-to-day operation of
  - 13 the Correctional Institution Division which includes the Pack
  - 14 Unit?
- 10:17:36 15 **A** Yes, sir.
  - 16 Q Ultimately, you and Lorie Davis are the people responsible
  - 17 for the policies at the Pack Unit?
  - 18 A Ultimately, in a global sense I think, yes, sir.
  - 19 **Q** You understand now and you understood in March when you
- 10:17:53 20 were beginning to plan how to deal with COVID-19 that
  - 21 individuals that are older and individuals with health
  - 22 conditions are at a higher risk if they're infected by COVID-19?
  - 23 **A** I understood that an offender or anyone with a preexisting
  - 24 medical condition or anyone who is elderly could have more
- 10:18:16 25 significant complications from COVID-19.

- 1 **Q** Okay and you understood that back in March when you began 2 planning how to deal with COVID-19?
- 3 A Yes, sir.
- 4 **Q** And you knew back in March that the Pack Unit had an 10:18:30 5 elderly population, older than many of the prisons in Texas?
  - 6 A Yes, sir.
  - 7 **Q** You had several talks with Warden Herrera during this 8 pandemic, correct?
  - 9 A Yes, sir.
- 10:18:42 10 Q Warden Herrera is the warden at the Pack Unit, correct?
  - 11 **A** He is, yes, sir.
  - 12 **Q** And you don't remember Warden Herrera ever raising anything
  - 13 that he wanted or needed to help prevent COVID-19 spread in the
  - 14 Pack Unit in your discussions with him?
- 10:18:58 15 A In my discussions with Warden Herrera, I don't remember any 16 specific need that he met -- did not have met.
  - 17 **Q** Yeah. My question was a little different, sir. You don't remember Warden Herrera ever raising anything that he wanted or
  - 19 needed to help prevent COVID-19 spread in the Pack Unit?
- 10:19:24 20 A I'm not aware of a specific request like that, sir.
  - 21 **Q** Okay. Mr. Collier, you're a busy man, correct?
  - 22 **A** I mean, I'm busy like lots of folks, yes, sir.
  - 23 **Q** I mean, heck, you have the entire Texas prison system to oversee, correct?
- 10:19:42 25 **A** Yes, sir.

	1	Q And we're about to start a trial that, at least, according
	2	to your counsel, will probably go two weeks.
	3	Do you understand that?
	4	A Yes, sir, I do.
10:19:51	5	Q We will hear from a number of inmates who will say that
	6	TDCJ Policy 14.52 is not being followed in certain respects.
	7	Do you understand that?
	8	A I understand that I may hear from those offenders; and if
	9	that's what their testimony will be, yes, sir.
10:20:08	10	Q Okay. And you understand there have been inmate grievances
	11	about COVID-19 protection, correct?
	12	(Technical interference.)
	13	MR. KEVILLE: Your Honor, I think there was a somewhat
	14	inaudible objection, and I think the witness is
10:20:34	15	THE COURT: I didn't hear the objection.
	16	Could you repeat it, please.
	17	MS. VASQUEZ: Objection for lack of personal
	18	knowledge.
	19	THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Who is speaking? And
10:20:37	20	I can't hear you.
	21	THE COURT: Is the objection
	22	MS. VASQUEZ: This is Christin Vasquez, and my
	23	objection was lack of personal knowledge, lack of foundation.
	24	THE COURT: This is Ms. Vasquez objecting.
10:21:02	25	Okay. Well, the warden is an intelligent person.

- 1 If he lacks the knowledge, he can say so. I'm going to allow to
- 2 the question.
- 3 BY MR. KEVILLE:
- 4 Q Mr. Collier, you understand that there have been inmate
- 10:21:17 5 grievances about COVID-19 protection?
  - 6 A I'm aware that there have been COVID-19 grievances; but of the substances of those grievances, I'm not specifically aware.
  - Q Okay. In fact, you changed the grievance policy across all the TDCJ units to address inmates' COVID-19 grievances quicker,
- 10:21:32 10 correct?
  - 11 **A** We modified the time frame and also created a specific code
  - 12 for COVID-19 grievances. The purpose behind that was to be more
  - 13 proactive in knowing if there were any COVID-related grievances
  - 14 that were filed.
- 10:21:45 15 Q And you did that at the end of May, correct?
  - 16 A Yes, sir, that occurred in May.
  - 17 **Q** Okay. And you did not apply that retroactively to
  - 18 grievances that were filed before the end of May, correct?
  - 19 A I do not believe that we did.
- 10:22:01 20 Q Mr. Collier, you remember that I took your deposition,
  - 21 correct?
  - 22 **A** I do.
  - 23 Q Okay. And I know that you and TDCJ did not agree to allow
  - 24 inmates access to hand sanitizer so that will be a dispute for
- 10:22:14 25 this trial. But perhaps, we can put the inmates' other

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1 Constitutional violation complaints behind us by agreeing to
        2 narrow some of the issues other than hand sanitizer. And that's
          why we're here, correct, to resolve our disputes?
                Yes, sir, I suppose so.
        4
10:22:31
        5
                Okay. I'd like to see first maybe what we can reach
        6 agreement on. So, let me ask this question to start: You agree
        7
          that testing for COVID-19 is an important thing to do in order
          to control the spread of COVID-19?
                As I understand COVID-19 and the ability to test offenders
       10
          for positivity or negativity of COVID-19, TDCJ has implemented a
10:22:56
       11
           process of testing large numbers of offenders to help identify
       12
           those that are positive; separate them from anyone who is
           negative because, COVID-19, for many people, you can have
       13
       14
           asymptomatic COVID-19 and display no symptoms or signs and,
       15
           therefore, be a carrier without anyone really knowing it.
10:23:19
       16
                          So, we have done mass testing across our system
       17
           to try to identify offenders that may have it but don't have any
       18
           symptoms or signs.
       19
                          We also have continued to do symptomatic testing.
       20
           Our two medical universities do symptomatic testing of offenders
10:23:34
       21
           who display any signs or symptoms related to COVID-19.
       22
                And I appreciate you telling us what you're doing. My
       23
           question was a little simpler, and I apologize if I wasn't
       2.4
           clear.
                          You agree that testing for COVID-19 is an
       25
10:23:48
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important thing to do to control the spread of that disease?
        1
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for an expert opinion.
        2
        3
                     THE COURT: No. He's -- he's being offered as a -- as
        4 the executive director of TDCJ; and in that capacity, he can
           offer his best opinion. We understand he's not testifying as an
10:24:10
        6
           expert.
        7
                     THE WITNESS: I do understand that testing is
        8 absolutely a way to identify offenders that may have COVID-19
           and separate those from those who do not.
       10 BY MR. KEVILLE:
10:24:26
       11
                And that's an important thing to do to control the spread,
       12
           correct?
       13
                I believe it is, yes, sir.
       14 Q
                Okay. Going back to early March of this year, you and
       15 others at TDCJ understood that testing was an important factor
10:24:33
       16
           in trying to control the spread of COVID-19, correct?
       17
                Could you repeat your question, sir, I'm sorry.
       18
                Sure. Going back to early March of this year, you and
       19
           others at TDCJ understood that testing was an important factor
       20
           in trying to control the spread of COVID-19?
10:24:49
       21
                I think that if you go back to March where testing was
       22
           fairly limited, limited in that testing was primarily done in
       23
           outside hospitals because tests themselves were hard to get, we
       24
           understood that testing, obviously, was the way you validated if
10:25:08 25
          someone had COVID-19.
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1
                          I couldn't say that I knew in March what I know
        2 now about testing larger populations.
        3
                Do you remember you were deposed just a few weeks ago, sir?
                I do, yes, sir.
        4
          Α
        5 Q
10:25:20
                Did you answer that question differently then?
                I don't recall specifically.
        6 A
        7
                     MR. KEVILLE: Allen, could you play his deposition,
        8
          please.
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
       10
                So, you were asked by Mr. Cowles: "You agree that even
10:25:34
       11
           going back to early March, you and others at TDCJ understood
       12
           that testing was an important factor in trying to control the
       13 spread of COVID-19?"
                          And you said, "Yes, sir, that's correct."
       14
       15 A
                Yes, sir.
10:25:49
       16
                Okay. So, do you agree now with the answer you gave in
       17
           your deposition?
       18
                       I also agree with what I told you just a moment ago.
       19
                As of June 4th, 2020, when you were deposed, there was no
       20
          plan, formal or informal, to do any retesting at the Pack Unit,
10:26:04
       21
           correct?
       22
                When I was deposed, as I told you in my deposition, we were
       23
           completing our Strike Team testing of 67 units and 107,000
       24
           offenders. After we completed that, we were then going to
10:26:24 25 reprioritize and identify based our healthcare providers' advice
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on how we should move forward with any additional testing. And that's the status we were in when you and I talked before.
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- **Q** Did you answer that question differently when you were deposed?
- I believe I have would have answered then that there was not a definite plan; but I explained in my deposition, if I'm not mistaken, what I just explained.
  - **Q** Okay.

3

4

8

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24

10:26:42

10:26:54

10:27:10

10:27:25

- 9 MR. KEVILLE: Allen, could you put up his deposition 10 at page 185, line 25, through 186, line 3.
- 11 BY MR. KEVILLE:
- 12 **Q** And sir, you were asked "Well, so, currently, there is no plan to do any retesting at the Pack Unit, formal or informal?"

  And you answered "That is correct."

Do you recall that, sir?

- A I do. I also recall explaining what I just explained, that we were in the midst of completing our Strike Team testing and that, upon the completion of that Strike Team testing, we had identified that the tests would continue to be available; and we would be working with our healthcare providers to develop the plan to move forward, if we were going to move forward, with additional testing.
- Q Sir, as of June 4, 2020, you had no specific plan, formal or informal, to do any retesting at the Pack Unit?
- 10:27:42 25 A That would be absolute correct in the literal sense.

	1	Q But just this past Friday, on July 10th, when we deposed
	2	Lorie Davis, she testified that, as of June 27th, there is a
	3	plan for retesting.
	4	Now, you're aware of that plan, correct?
10:27:58	5	A I'm aware, as I had explained earlier, after we completed
	6	our Strike Team testing, we met with our healthcare providers
	7	and developed, essentially, a plan to move forward with
	8	additional Strike Team testing. That included Strike Team
	9	testing the Pack Unit in June. I believe the second week of
10:28:20	10	June.
	11	Since then, we have also tested the Pack Unit one
	12	more time and have plans to continue to do that on a seven-day
	13	basis.
	14	Q The current plan is that you will test the entire all
10:28:33	15	the COVID-19 negatives, correct? And then, when you get the
	16	results and isolate any positives, you go back in and test the
	17	negative population again, get the results back, identify those
	18	that are still negative, retest them, and repeat until you get
	19	results back that have no positives, correct?
10:28:51	20	A The current plan for the Pack Unit and three other
	21	facilities would be that we would go in and do testing and then
	22	test everyone who has been negative in the past. None of the
	23	positive offenders or positive staff who have ever had a
	24	positive test will be retested.
10:29:10	25	We will test the negatives; separate, obviously,

- anyone who is positive from that population; come back in seven days; retest the negative; continue to do that on a seven-day cycle until we identify no positive cases.
- Following that, we would come back seven days and again seven days after that to ensure that we had no additional positives. Then, we would begin focusing our attention on testing staff at least every 14 days.
  - 8 **Q** You authorized that plan about two, three weeks ago, 9 correct?
- 10:29:46 10 **A** That would be correct, yes, sir.

10:30:03

- 11 **Q** That plan is not in writing anywhere, correct?
- 12 **A** Probably not at this point, no, sir.
- 13 **Q** There are no documents we could look at to determine the details of implementation or even that showed TDCJ has actually committed to this plan?
- 16 A There would be information that would reflect that we have
  17 done the first round of testing on those facilities. I'm not
  18 sure if we have done all four. I know we have done -- I believe
- the Pack Unit and the Duncan Unit have been completed.

  10:30:20 20 Q Sure. That's just documents that show you're doing
  - testing. There are no documents we could look at to determine how this plan is going to be implemented or documents that show TDCJ has committed to this plan, correct?
  - 24 A At this time, that is correct.
- 10:30:35 25 Q Mr. Collier, will you address the judge and commit to the

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plan that you just said you're going to do for the Pack Unit?
        1
        2
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection, your Honor. This calls for
        3
           a --
        4
                     THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you.
10:30:53
           This calls for --
        6
                     MS. VASQUEZ: A legal conclusion and Mr. Collier's
        7
           conference with his attorneys.
        8
                     MR. COWLES: Your Honor, I asked about no legal
           conclusion. I asked simply whether he would address the Court
       10
           and commit to what he just testified he was going to do.
10:31:03
       11
                     THE COURT: I think the question is legitimate.
       12
                     THE WITNESS: Two things: One, I would need to confer
       13
           with our attorneys to find out if there is additional
       14
           ramifications for that; however, the testing that we are doing
       15
           on the four facilities as discussed like we're doing at the Pack
10:31:19
       16
           Unit, again, is a model developed by our healthcare partners,
       17
           the university partners and Dr. Linthicum.
       18
                          It is not one that -- it is possible that that
       19
           plan could see multiple changes as we continue to do it because
       20
           it is not based specifically on a CDC direct quideline as it
10:31:38
           relates to correctional facilities.
       21
       22
                          So, I do not know if the plan will change in the
       23
           future; but on the bigger scale, I would still need to address
       24
           with our attorneys if there is legal ramifications for agreeing
          to do that for the Court.
10:31:53 25
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1 BY MR. KEVILLE:
                Okay. So, as of now, you're not willing to commit to doing
        3 this --
        4
                     THE COURT: I think he's answered the question. Let's
10:32:01
        5 move on.
        6
                     MR. KEVILLE:
                                  Okav.
        7
          BY MR. KEVILLE:
                Let me ask another question, Mr. Collier: The men that we
        8
           represent at the Pack Unit have asked that TDCJ provide all
           class member inmates with unrestricted access to hand soap and
       10
10:32:18
       11
           clean hand towels.
       12
                          Do you agree to continue to do this throughout
       13
           the pandemic?
       14
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection, your Honor. This calls for a
       15 | legal conclusion and consultation with --
10:32:29
       16
                     THE COURT: No. It's what they're willing to commit
       17
           to. He can admit it or deny it.
       18
                     THE WITNESS: Within our protocols for TDCJ, we have
       19
           continued to provide hand soap and encouraged offenders to use
       20
           hand soap as a way -- that's one of the number one ways to
10:32:47
       21
           actually prevent COVID-19 is frequently washing our hands.
       22
                          We provided soap but also provide soap access so
       23
           that they can have additional soap as necessary, and we also
       24
           provided an exchange for a hand towel each day. We have done
10:33:05 25
          that for the last -- not the entire amount of time since this
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1 started; but again, I don't know what ramifications that would
        2 have if I agree to that on behalf of the Court. So, I would
          need to talk to my attorneys about that.
          BY MR. KEVILLE:
10:33:17
                Okay. So, while you're saying that you have a policy
           you're not agreeing to it on the record; is that correct?
        6
        7
                     THE COURT: He's saying he's not going to commit to it
           going forward. I think that's an adequate answer. Let's move
        8
        9
           on.
       10
                     MR. KEVILLE: Okay.
10:33:32
       11
          BY MR. KEVILLE:
       12
                Mr. Collier, the men that we represent at the Pack Unit
       13
           have asked that TDCJ provide all inmates and staff members with
       14
           masks. And you have indicated that inmates receive cloth masks
       15
           which can be turned in each day and fresh masks provided.
10:33:46
       16
                          Do you agree to continue to do this until the end
       17
           of the COVID-19 outbreak?
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Your Honor, same objection. This calls
       18
       19
           for a legal conclusion and consultation with Mr. Collier's
       20
10:33:57
           attorneys.
       2.1
                     THE COURT: If he thinks it calls for a legal
       22
           conclusion, he can say that. What he's asking about is a matter
       23
           of procedure, if they're going to provide masks daily. That's
       24
           not a hard question.
       25
                     THE WITNESS: We have continued to provide -- we --
10:34:07
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	1	one, we manufactured masks early in the process. We issued
	2	those masks to offenders in the month of April, to the offenders
	3	that were over 65 first. Then, we followed up with the rest of
	4	the offender population with cotton masks. We have since
10:34:24	5	created enough cotton masks in inventory. Daily exchange of
	6	those masks is done with offenders, and that has been done
	7	throughout the COVID-19 epidemic since we were able to get that
	8	out.
	9	That process remains again subject to anything
10:34:40	10	that may interpret that differently from the CDC or any other
	11	outside guidelines that change it. But again, answering that
	12	and agreeing to that for the Court might have legal
	13	ramifications; and I would have to ask my attorneys.
	14	BY MR. KEVILLE:
10:34:57	15	Q Mr. Collier, the men that we represent at the Pack Unit
	16	have asked that TDCJ provide cleaning supplies for each housing
	17	area, including bleach-based cleaning agents and CDC-recommended
	18	disinfectants in sufficient quantities to facilitate frequent
	19	cleaning, including in quantities sufficient for each inmate to
10:35:16	20	clean and disinfect the floor and all services of his own
	21	housing cubicle and provide new gloves and masks to each inmate
	22	during each time they're cleaning or performing janitorial
	23	services.
	24	Do you agree to do this?
10:35:30	25	MS. VASQUEZ: Objection, your Honor. Calls for a

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legal conclusion and requires Mr. Collier to consult with his
        1
        2
           attorneys.
        3
                     THE COURT: I'm going to allow --
        4
                     THE WITNESS: I think while I recognize --
10:35:38
        5
                     THE COURT: I'm going to allow the question. He can
        6
           qualify the answer however he wishes.
        7
                     THE WITNESS: I apologize, your Honor.
        8
                     THE COURT: All right.
        9
                     THE WITNESS: I'm aware that those protocols are in
       10 place within TDCJ; but again, I would have to ask our attorneys
10:35:49
       11
           for advice based upon agreeing to that for the Court.
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
       13
                Okay. But you agree -- you believe that the protocols that
           I just read to you are in place at TDCJ?
       15
                I do believe the -- I'd have to go back through your list
10:36:05
       16
           again; but yes, sir, I do believe the protocols that you
       17
           referenced are protocols that we have in place.
                Mr. Collier, Plaintiffs have asked that TDCJ provide all
       18
           inmates with access to tissues or, if tissues are not available,
       19
       20
           additional toilet paper above their normal allotment.
10:36:22
       2.1
                          Do you agree to do this through the end of the
           COVID-19 outbreak at the Pack Unit?
       22
       23
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for a legal conclusion
       2.4
           and consultation with his attorneys.
10:36:36 25
                     THE COURT: Same ruling.
```

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1
                     THE WITNESS: Within our protocols, we have added an
        2 | additional roll of toilet paper; and that's also something that
        3 can be available, if necessary, upon request, not specifically
          tissues but the extra toilet paper to help address that issues.
10:36:49
           Again, I would have to ask the attorneys if there's a
           ramification for agreeing to that for the Court.
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
        7
        8
                Mr. Collier, the men we represent at the Pack Unit have
           asked that TDCJ institute a prohibition on new prisoners
       10
           entering the Pack Unit for the duration of the pandemic or, in
10:37:03
       11
           the alternative, test all new prisoners entering or place new
       12
           prisoners in quarantine for 14 days.
       13
                          Do you agree to these measures?
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for a legal conclusion
       14
       15
           and consultation with Mr. Collier's attorneys.
10:37:18
       16
                     THE COURT: Same ruling.
       17
                     THE WITNESS: It would require, obviously, for me to
       18
           confer with attorneys. We do not have that -- we have not added
       19
           any offenders to the Pack Unit during this event. However, to
           agree that we would never -- because this event may last quite
       20
10:37:29
       2.1
           sometime.
       22
                          For us to agree -- I'm not sure I can agree to
       23
           that either way. But I certainly would have to ask attorneys
       2.4
           for advice. That's not a protocol that's in place now;
10:37:43 25
           although, we have not moved anyone new to the Pack Unit.
```

	1	BY MR. KEVILLE:
	2	$oldsymbol{Q}$ Okay. Would you agree that in the alternative to a
	3	complete prohibition that you would test all new prisoners
	4	entering the Pack Unit for COVID-19 or place them in quarantine
10:37:58	5	for 14 days if there's no test available?
	6	MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for a legal conclusion
	7	and consultation with his attorneys.
	8	THE COURT: Same ruling.
	9	THE WITNESS: Again, I would have to ask our attorneys
10:38:10	10	for what ramifications that might have.
	11	BY MR. KEVILLE:
	12	Q Mr. Collier, the men that we represent at the Pack Unit
	13	have asked that TDCJ limit transportation of Pack Unit inmates
	14	out of the prison to transportation involving immediately
10:38:21	15	necessary medical appointments and release from custody and,
	16	when that transport is necessary for medical release, provide
	17	social distancing.
	18	Do you agree to do this through the remainder of
	19	this pandemic?
10:38:35	20	MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for a legal conclusion
	21	and consultation with his attorneys.
	22	THE COURT: Same ruling.
	23	THE WITNESS: That is a practice that TDCJ does have
	24	in place. We have limited transportation not only at the Pack
10:38:44	25	Unit but throughout the system for only critical needs. At the

```
1 same time, to agree to that before the Court would potentially
        2 | have ramifications. I would have to talk to our attorneys about
        3
          that.
          BY MR. KEVILLE:
10:38:57
        5
                Mr. Collier, the men we represent at the Pack Unit have
          asked that TDCJ implement and enforce strict social distancing
        6
        7
          measures requiring at least six feet of distance between
          individuals where the inmates are required to congregate and, to
           the extent possible, use common areas like the gymnasium, the
           library, the law library, classrooms as temporary housing for
       10
10:39:14
       11
           inmates without disabilities to increase the social distancing
       12
           at the Pack Unit.
       13
                          Do you agree to do this for the remainder of the
       14
           COVID-19 outbreak?
       15
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for a legal conclusion
10:39:25
       16
           and consultation with his attorneys.
       17
                     THE WITNESS: Social distancing is --
       18
                     THE COURT: Same ruling.
       19
                          Go ahead, Mr. Collier.
       2.0
                     THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, again. I'm sorry, your
10:39:34
       2.1
           Honor.
       22
                          Social distancing in prison is a difficult issue.
       23
           One, spaces may not allow for an exact six-foot rule; and
       24
           according to the CDC guidelines, you have to the develop a plan
10:39:50 25
           for the specific facility that are working within.
```

	1	We have done that at the Pack Unit as we have
	2	with our other facilities. We have also looked at alternatives
	3	of where we can house. One thing I would point out to is that
	4	the Pack Unit is a unit that is required to have
10:40:06	5	air-conditioning, which it does; however, the gymnasium does not
	6	have air conditioning and is not suitable for housing based upon
	7	that and the population that is housed there. We have maximized
	8	the use of other space on the unit to ensure that we are
	9	spreading out offenders, to the best of our ability, within the
10:40:22	10	design of that facility.
	11	Warden Herrera and his team have continued to
	12	enhance that process throughout; but again, I think agreeing to
	13	do that for the Court, I don't know the legal ramifications of
	14	that; and I would have to ask our attorneys.
10:40:37	15	BY MR. KEVILLE:
	16	Q Mr. Collier, the men we represent at the Pack Unit have
	17	requested that TDCJ post signage and information in common areas
	18	about COVID-19 and how to protect themselves and educate inmates
	19	on the COVID-19 pandemic by providing information about
10:40:56	20	pandemic, the symptoms, transmission, and how to protect
	21	themselves.
	22	Do you agree to do this for the remainder of the
	23	COVID-19 pandemic?
	24	A TDCJ
10:41:07	25	MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for a legal conclusion

	1	and consultation with his attorneys.
	2	THE COURT: Same ruling.
	3	THE WITNESS: TDCJ has had signage in place, continues
	4	to look at how we provide information to the offender and staff
10:41:23	5	populations that are within our facilities. We've had that in
	6	place for sometime, not only signs but as well as videos that we
	7	play regularly as well as announcements on things like the
	8	healthcare fee being waived.
	9	TDCJ has had that protocol in place; but again,
10:41:39	10	to agree to that may have legal ramifications that I would have
	11	to understand from our attorneys.
	12	BY MR. KEVILLE:
	13	Q Mr. Collier, the men we represent have requested that for
	14	any inmate correctional officer or staff member who tests
10:41:56	15	positive for COVID-19 TDCJ perform contact tracing to determine
	16	all individuals and surfaces contacted during the two-week
	17	period before the test result.
	18	Do you agree to do that?
	19	MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for a legal conclusion
10:42:09	20	and consultation with his attorneys.
	21	THE COURT: Same ruling.
	22	THE WITNESS: According to what I understand according
	23	to the CDC guidelines, contact tracing is a 48-hour window, not
	24	necessarily a two-week window; but again, we do contact tracing
10:42:27	25	for staff as well as offenders. We've had that protocol in

```
1 place as well. However, to agree to that for the Court may have
        2 | legal ramifications; and obviously, I would have to talk to our
        3
          attorneys.
          BY MR. KEVILLE:
                Mr. Collier, your attorneys have represented to this Court
10:42:42
          and to the Fifth Circuit that TDCJ is doing many or most of the
        6
        7
           things we've just discussed.
        8
                          Do you understand that?
        9 A
                Yes, sir.
       10 Q
                And you're the top man at TDCJ, correct?
10:42:52
       11 A
                I'm the executive director for TDCJ.
       12
                So, who has authority to agree on behalf of TDCJ if it's
          not you?
       13
                It ultimately could be me; but it, again, would require me
       14
       15 to conference with attorneys and understand the full
10:43:09
       16 ramifications of that.
       17
                And without revealing any discussions with counsel, have
           you ever discussed agreeing to the conditions that we've just
       18
       19
           discussed?
       2.0
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for attorney/client
10:43:27
           communications.
       21
       22
                     THE COURT: No. He specifically excluded
           attorney/client communications. He's saying other than
       23
           attorney/client communications.
       24
```

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THE WITNESS: Other than specifically with the

25

10:43:40

```
1 attorneys, no, sir, I'm not aware of that.
        2 BY MR. KEVILLE:
        3
                Mr. Collier, will you commit to discussing with your
           attorneys, without telling me any substance of what you'll
10:43:56
           discuss in the future, whether you will agree to do this in a
           way so we can narrow this trial down to what's really at issue?
        6
        7
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Attorney/client privilege.
        8
                     THE COURT: I'm going to allow it.
        9
                     THE WITNESS: As I understand your question, you're
       10 asking me to commit to the Court that I will talk with our
10:44:15
       11
           attorneys about the things you asked me to agree to?
       12
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
       13
                That is correct.
       14
                And again, I don't know even what legal ramifications that
       15 would have.
10:44:26
       16
                     THE COURT: Okay. Let's move on.
       17
                     MR. KEVILLE: Okav.
       18
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
                Mr. Collier, let's talk for a minute about hand sanitizer.
       19
       20
           TDCJ rejected the idea of providing hand sanitizer to inmates
10:44:33
           even though it's -- that are mobility-impaired, correct?
       21
                TDCJ followed the CDC guidelines which recommend the use of
       22
       23
           soap and water to help with preventing COVID-19. It does say if
       24
           soap and water are not available that hand sanitizer should be
       25 considered, but we did provide hand sanitizer to staff in small
10:44:57
```

```
1 bottles that they could keep on their person because they don't
        2 have the same level of access necessarily to sinks and soap as
        3 offenders would in their housing areas.
        4
                          But hand sanitizer for offenders, no, sir, we did
        5 | not issue; and we have discussed it but chose not to issue.
10:45:13
                The staff that you're talking about that got the small
        6
        7
          bottles of hand sanitizer, they can get to a sink easier than a
          man in a wheelchair or a walker can, correct?
        9
                I don't know that that would be accurate based upon where
          you're working, where your work station is. I'm not sure that
       10
10:45:32
       11
           that would be accurate.
       12
                And you don't know how far the staff has to go compared to
       13
           how far inmates in a wheelchair would to go to get to a sink, do
          you?
       14
       15
                It would depend on a specific housing area or a specific
10:45:48
       16
           work assignment for the staff. So, it could vary quite a bit.
       17
                Understood. And you understand that there are a number of
       18
           mobility-impaired inmates at the Pack Unit, many in wheelchairs?
       19
                I do, sir.
       20
10:46:03
                Okay. And you made -- you and TDCJ made no analysis of how
       21
           you could help those mobility-impaired individuals get to
       22
           handwashing more frequently, correct?
       23
                We have recommended throughout the pandemic that
       24
           handwashing is one of the key ways we can prevent COVID-19, and
```

we have continued to provide that information but also provide

10:46:25 25

```
1 the materials to do that to the offender population.
        2 Q
                I apologize. Might be my fault because I didn't make my
          question clear. My question was you and TDCJ have done no
           specific analysis to see how you could help the
        5 mobility-impaired and wheelchair inmates at the Pack Unit be
10:46:43
           able to get more frequent handwashing?
        6
        7
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for attorney/client
        8 privileged communications.
        9
                     THE COURT: All right. I'm going to overrule the
       10 objection.
10:47:01
       11
                     THE WITNESS: I'm not familiar with a specific
       12
           analysis. There may have been discussions, but I'm not aware of
           a specific analysis of those mobility-impaired offenders as it
       13
       14
           relates to the handwashing.
       15 BY MR. KEVILLE:
10:47:14
                You say there may have been discussions. Did you have
       16
       17
           those discussions?
       18
                Not that I recall.
                Okay. So, you're not aware of any discussions or analysis
       19
       20 that was done with regard to the mobility-impaired inmates at
10:47:21
       21
           the Pack Unit and how to provide them better access to
           handwashing?
       22
       23
                No, sir.
```

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inmates, those that are mobility-impaired or wheelchair-bound at

Okay. And you didn't look at -- for that particular set of

24

10:47:35 25

	1	the Pack Unit, whether it would make sense to provide them with
	2	the small bottles of hand sanitizer?
	3	A Any offender within the system, if there were a need such
	4	as the one you described, our medical partners, medical staff
10:47:55	5	assigned to the unit would identify if an accommodation for an
	6	offender needed to be made. If an offender was distance-wise
	7	not close to a sink, that kind of accommodation can be made.
	8	It would be made based upon a recommendation,
	9	typically, from the medical department advising that that would
10:48:14	10	assist that individual in meeting that need. I'm not aware of
	11	us either having that need or not meeting that need.
	12	$oldsymbol{Q}$ Did you ever instruct the medical department to look at the
	13	needs of the mobility-impaired inmates at the Pack Unit in
	14	regard to COVID-19?
10:48:32	15	A I did not specifically instruct them. I know that they
	16	specifically within their practices and protocols monitor those
	17	offenders; and if there is a need there, they would bring that
	18	to administration's the unit administration for resolution.
	19	Q Let's see if we can clear this up. You and anyone at TDCJ
10:48:52	20	that works with or for you never instructed medical to take a
	21	look at how we can help the mobility-impaired inmates at the
	22	Pack Unit have more frequent access to handwashing?
	23	MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Lack of personal knowledge.
	24	Calls for speculation.
10:49:12	25	THE COURT: Objection is overruled.

```
1
                     THE WITNESS:
                                  I'm not specifically aware of a
        2 discussion. I can't say if one did or did not happen.
          BY MR. KEVILLE:
                Right. Your counsel objected about speculation. You would
        4
10:49:23
        5 be speculating if you said that because you have no personal
           knowledge of that happening, correct?
        6
        7
                That is correct.
        8
                Okay. And you have no personal knowledge that anyone in
          the medical department ever did any analysis to say how can we
       10 help the wheelchair or mobility-impaired inmates at the Pack
10:49:32
       11
           Unit get more frequent access to handwashing, correct?
       12
                I'm not aware.
                And you have no intention of providing any of the inmates,
       13
       14
           including the mobility-impaired inmates at the Pack Unit, with
       15 hand sanitizer, correct?
10:49:53
       16
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for a legal
           conclusion.
       17
       18
                     THE WITNESS: Again, I follow the advice of our
           healthcare professions; and again, as it relates to an offender
       19
       20
           with mobility issues, they would advise us on protocols that
10:50:01
       21
           they need -- that we need to provide for those offenders.
       22
           They've made no such recommendation that we provide them hand
       23
           sanitizer.
       24
                          But that's the advice that I would follow is from
10:50:15 25 our healthcare providers. If they brought that advice forward,
```

```
we would review it and determine if that's feasible or not.
        1
        2 BY MR. KEVILLE:
        3
                But even after this lawsuit, you never went to your medical
           people and said, "Hey, how can we help the mobility-impaired
10:50:30
          inmates at the Pack Unit get more frequent access to handwashing
           or can we provide those inmates with hand sanitizer?"
        6
        7
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Asked and answered.
        8
                     MR. KEVILLE: I believe that was a different question,
           your Honor.
       10
                     THE COURT: I'm going to overrule the objection.
10:50:48
       11
                     THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, Mr. Keville, would you remind
       12
           repeating it.
       13
                     MR. KEVILLE: Sure.
       14
                          Ms. Court Reporter, could you just read that
       15 back.
10:50:57
       16
                          Thank you.
       17
                (The last question was read.)
       18
                     THE WITNESS: That is correct. I have not had a
           specific discussion related to that.
       19
       20
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
10:51:24
       21
                In opening -- were you listening to the opening,
           Mr. Collier?
       22
       23
          Α
                I was.
       24
                Okay. In opening, your counsel talked about having
10:51:33 25
           implemented Policy 14.52 and some of the things we've been just
```

- 1 talking about and that they're being done at TDCJ units, 2 correct?
- 3 A Yes, sir.

10:52:55

- 4 Q All the things that Mr. Cowles was talking about in his
  10:51:48 5 opening that TDCJ is doing, those are all being done across all
  6 of the TDCJ units, correct?
  - A I didn't write down what Mr. Cowles specifically listed.

    There are large numbers of protocols we have in place across the
    system. Generally, I would agree with your question, yes, sir.
- 10:52:14 10 **Q** Okay. All of the steps that Mr. Cowles said TDCJ took that were described in opening are steps that were taken as applied across all 104 TDCJ prisons, correct?
  - 13 **A** I believe that would be correct.
- 14 **Q** And we've talked about 14.52. There was not and there is not a policy like 14.52 that is specific to the Pack Unit, correct?
  - 17 **A** The Correctional Managed Healthcare Policy 14.52 would be a 18 system policy as it relates to how we address COVID-19 in TDCJ.
  - 19 **Q** Okay. So, there was not and is not a policy that is specific to the Pack Unit, correct?
  - 21 A Not that I'm personally aware of.
  - 22 **Q** And there is no supplement or adaptation of Policy 14.52 23 that is specific to the Pack Unit, correct?
- 24 A I'm not aware of a subpart of 14.52; but also, I'm not 10:53:16 25 aware of anything that the unit medical clinic at the Pack Unit

```
1 or the physicians or the nurses at the Pack Unit may have in
        2 place that either is having to carry out 14.52 or may be in
          addition to what's in 14.52.
        3
        4
                          But 14.52 is a general policy related to TDCJ and
        5 instructs us on how we address many aspects of managing the
10:53:34
        6
           COVID-19.
        7
                Sure. And my question goes a little differently. My
           question is you're not aware that there's any adaptation or
           supplement to 14.52 that TDCJ has specific to the Pack Unit?
                I guess as you say "adaptation," there are certain things
       10
10:53:55
       11
           that we have done because of the population at the Pack Unit.
       12
           I'm not sure if that would qualify as an adaptation of 14.52.
       13
                          But we have done certain things such as the
       14
           repeated strike testing that we're not doing at every unit in
       15
           the system. We're only doing that on units with specifically a
10:54:13
       16
           very high percentage of elderly offenders.
       17
                Okay. That's the thing that you say is in addition. Other
       18
           than that, there's no adaptation or changes to the policy that
       19
           are specific to the Pack Unit other than this new repeated
       20
10:54:30
           testing?
       21
                Again, throughout the event, we tested the first dorm after
           Mr. Clerkly was positive. That was the only location in the
       22
       23
           system that we did that. At the time, tests were very difficult
           to achieve to get to volume testing; but we did test everybody
       24
       25 at that dorm that -- where Mr. Clerkly was residing before he
```

10:54:47

1 passed away. 2 That was -- that was not within the system. 3 was something specific to Pack. So, again, I don't know if that qualifies as an adaptation; and then, of course, the strike 10:55:04 5 testing that we're doing at Pack now. 6 By the way, the repeated strike testing that we talked 7 about a little earlier, that came about a few weeks ago, right? Yes, sir, that's correct. And that came out about right around the time that there 10 were some additional expert reports requiring that kind of 10:55:18 11 testing in this case, correct? 12 I don't know any expert reports specifically on the repeat 13 testing. I know that we started strike testing in early May 14 based upon those tests becoming available to the state, and TDCJ 15 was able to acquire the test for use to test large quantities 10:55:36 16 within the system. 17 After we completed the first round of Strike Team 18 testing, we then consulted our healthcare experts to move forward. We did another round of Strike Team testing on several 19 20 units. The repeated testing that we are working with now at the 10:55:51 Pack Unit and three other facilities was based upon our 21 healthcare professionals and Dr. Linthicum coming up with that 22 23 model to help us pursue how we continue to test at those facilities based on their populations. 24 10:56:11 25 I'm not aware of an expert -- I'm not arguing

3

10:57:07

10:57:25

19

20

21

22

23

- 1 that there's not one. I'm just saying I'm not aware that expert 2 testimony or report had anything to do with it.
  - **Q** Whose idea was it to do this repeated strike testing that you guys agreed to a couple of weeks ago?
- The testing protocol, specifically, I believe Dr. Linthicum

  worked through that with Dr. Keiser who is the chair of the

  Managed Healthcare Committee also working with the university

  partners. She made recommendations to me, to myself. We

  discussed it; and then, she and Ms. Davis based upon the

  populations identified a plan to carry it forth.
  - 11 **Q** So, you -- as the top guy for TDCJ, you were brought this 12 and you agreed to it?
  - 13 A Yes, sir. Dr. Linthicum talked with me about it and
    14 continued to work and develop the plan talking with those
    15 individuals and then confirming if we should move forward with a
    16 plan like that.
  - 17 **Q** Is there any plan to put the plan in writing and to make it a policy?
    - A There certainly could be, Mr. Keville; but at this time, I couldn't assure you that that's a permanent model because of the nature of this entire COVID-19 experience. But we have identified protocols that were modified sometimes over the course of even a week.
- So, I don't know what -- if that will stand as the best plan for the future or if there will be a modified

	1	version of that or if that is identified as something we should
	2	not do.
	3	Again, we are trying that to see if it will help
	4	us again identify any positive offenders and keep a process in
10:58:00	5	place that will keep us from having anybody positive come into
	6	that facility.
	7	<b>Q</b> So, as I understand, the plan is that you will hopefully
	8	continue and do this repeated testing until COVID-19 is
	9	eliminated at the Pack Unit but you're not sure you will, that
10:58:14	10	may change?
	11	A In a short way, I suppose your answer is right; but I think
	12	our determination of that would be based on the best evidence of
	13	what we understand from the testing as well as the best advice
	14	that's within our experts that we have within the two teaching
10:58:32	15	universities and Dr. Linthicum.
	16	So, we are moving forward with that plan based or
	17	in that advice today; but if COVID-19 science develops a
	18	different model or comes up with a better way to do what we're
	19	trying to do, which is eliminate any positives on a facility,
10:58:48	20	then we would have to look at that and maybe modify that.
	21	That's really all I'm trying to explain.
	22	<b>Q</b> You agree that you should look at what many experts say and
	23	what the recommendations are as it relates to preventing
	24	COVID-19 in the facilities, correct?
10:59:05	25	MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Vague, overbroad.

```
1
                     THE COURT: Rephrase the question, Mr. Keville.
        2
                     MR. KEVILLE:
                                   Sure.
        3
          BY MR. KEVILLE:
                Mr. Collier, one thing you should consider in determining
        4
           the policies for TDCJ and how it responds to COVID-19 is what
10:59:16
           experts say, correct?
        6
        7
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Overbroad with respect to
        8
          experts.
        9
                     THE COURT: I'm going to allow it. I'm going to allow
       10
           it.
10:59:30
       11
                     THE WITNESS: Our healthcare policies are modeled by
       12
           the Correctional Managed Healthcare Committee which is,
       13
           essentially, a committee of experts also with partnership with
       14
           two teaching universities.
       1.5
                          Those entities together develop our healthcare
10:59:41
       16
           policies for the system that we implement. That is a team of
       17
           experts that we rely on heavily. They may receive information
       18
           from sources beyond that. I know we also look at what the CDC
       19
           recommends, and we're aware of other best practices around the
       20
10:59:58
           country.
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
       2.1
       22
                Okay. So, you're saying that it's CMHC that should
       23
           consider what is being done around the country or what other
       24
           experts say?
11:00:10 25
                The Correctional Managed Healthcare Committee does the --
```

```
1 identifies what the healthcare plan is going to be or healthcare
2 protocols. So, that's the base of experts that we rely on for
3 our healthcare policy and practice. Who they rely on outside of
 their teaching universities as well as what they know from other
  states, I'm only speculating.
```

11:00:28

Mr. Collier, we were talking -- we got a little

6 sidetracked. We were talking about hand sanitizer. Your basis for not allowing the inmates at the Pack Unit to have hand sanitizer is because it has alcohol and inmates may ingest it, number one; and number two, because it is flammable, correct?

10 11:00:46

7

11

16

17

18

19

21

22

Yes, sir. Α

12 Okay. And you've done no analysis of the inmates across 1.3 the Pack Unit to see if there is a risk of that, specifically, 14 at the Pack Unit, correct?

15 **A** 11:01:00

We did conduct a study of the Pack Unit. We know that offenders are at the Pack Unit. We also know that from stories outside of the State of Texas offenders have ingested it. We also know that alcohol is a flammable substance and can be used as an accelerant for fire. So, it poses a risk for any facility.

20 11:01:22

> I'm sorry. Is the answer to my question, no, you've done no analysis specific to the inmates at the Pack Unit as to the risk for allowing hand sanitizer?

23 24

MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. This misstates his prior 11:01:36 25 testimony and argumentative.

```
1
                     THE COURT: I'm going to allow it.
        2
                     THE WITNESS: We did not do -- we did not do a
        3
           specific study at the Pack Unit as it relates to your question.
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
11:01:47
                Okay. And you didn't do any specific study for
           mobility-impaired inmates or wheelchair-bound inmates, right?
        6
        7
           So, the wheelchair-bound inmates have to roll their hands across
           the wheels which are rolling across the floor which are
           gathering dirt and other germs potentially, possibly infection.
       10
                          You did no analysis of whether we could provide
11:02:06
       11
          hand sanitizer to those individuals because of the risk of them
       12
           being in a wheelchair?
                There was, to my knowledge, not a specific analysis of
       13
           those offenders. If medical has identified that as an issue,
       14
       15
           again, our medical providers would bring that information
11:02:23
       16
           forward for us to address.
       17
                     THE COURT: Mr. Keville, you might look for a place we
       18
           can take our morning break.
       19
                     MR. KEVILLE: Sure. Maybe, your Honor, I'll just
       20 finish a few questions on hand sanitizer.
11:02:32
       2.1
                     THE COURT: Okay. All right.
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
       22
       23
                Mr. Collier, at TDCJ's Roach facility, inmates are taking
       24
           hand sanitizer that TDCJ buys in bulk and are rebottling that
          hand sanitizer for staff use, correct?
11:02:46 25
```

1 A That is correct.

4

11:03:22

- 2 Q And you're not aware of any incidents at the Roach facility
- 3 where any offender drank the hand sanitizer, correct?
  - A Not specifically, no, sir.
- 11:03:01 5 **Q** Heck, not generally either, correct? You're not aware of any such incident at the Roach facility?
  - 7 A I'm not aware of any report of an offender ingesting or 8 using the alcohol-based hand sanitizer that they bottle at the 9 unit. I'm also not aware of -- they're supervised when they 10 rebottle that; and at the same time, it's within one of our
  - So, there's oversight there with them the entire time; and I'm not sure how much access they have to the product.

    I'm not personally aware of that.
- 11:03:32 15 **Q** You're not aware of any inmate at the Roach facility 16 setting a fire using hand sanitizer, correct?
  - 17 **A** No, sir.

correct?

2.0

24

11:03:45

11 factories.

- 18 **Q** And you're aware that 30 states have now relaxed restrictions on hand sanitizer for the period of this pandemic,
- 21 **A** No, sir, I was not aware of that.

regard to hand sanitizer, correct?

- 22 **Q** And you've done no further analysis since you started back 23 in March to say let me see what other states are doing with
- 11:03:59 25 A I've had discussions with other state directors. I have

```
1 not been told that there were 30 states using hand sanitizer.
        2 The research that I had seen last was that only six states were
          using hand sanitizer, and I wasn't aware personally of any of
           those states.
                          But I have had discussions with other states as
11:04:14
        5
        6 it relates to COVID-19, as it relates to protocols that need to
        7
          be in place; and I've not had a discussion with anyone that
           referenced hand sanitizer for offenders.
        9
                Have you discussed specifically with any of the states that
          have allowed access -- inmates access to hand sanitizer how they
       10
11:04:31
       11 did it?
       12
                No, sir.
                     MR. KEVILLE: Your Honor, why don't we take our break
       13
       14 here.
                     THE COURT: We'll take a 10-minute -- a 15-minute
11:04:43
       15
       16
           break. 15-minute break.
       17
                (Court recessed at 11:04 a.m.)
       18
                (Court resumed at 11:22 a.m.)
       19
                     THE COURT: Are we all back?
       2.0
                     MR. KEVILLE: Your Honor, Plaintiffs are back.
11:22:09
       2.1
                     THE COURT: Let's proceed then.
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
       22
       23
                Mr. Collier, in opening, your counsel showed us signs that
       24
           were posted at the Pack Unit.
       25
                          Do you remember that?
11:22:22
```

- 1 A Yes, sir.
- 2 MR. KEVILLE: And Allen, if you would put up the sign
- 3 from the Plaintiffs' opening.
- 4 BY MR. KEVILLE:
- 11:22:27 5 **Q** And here, in your response, if we look on the left, the
  - 6 signs you're posting in the Pack Unit say "Wash hands often for
  - 7 20 seconds; encourage others to do the same," correct?
    - B A Yes, sir.
- 9 **Q** And then, they say, "If no soap and water available, use 11:22:43 10 hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol."
  - So, you're posting signs in the Pack Unit that
  - 12 the inmates see that say, if you can't get soap and water, use
  - 13 hand sanitizer, correct?
  - 14 A Yes, sir. The reason the sign says that is because it is
- 11:23:04 15 for staff as well; and our staff would -- if they're not
  - 16 available to use soap and water have access to hand sanitizer.
  - 17 Q Now, is it only staff who are in certain places where
  - 18 there's no access to soap and water that have hand sanitizer or
  - 19 did you give the hand sanitizer to all the staff?
- 11:23:20 20 **A** We did issue hand sanitizer to all staff.
  - 21 **Q** So, it wasn't because they didn't have soap and water
  - 22 available, you just gave it to everyone as to staff?
  - 23 A Staff could be working in locations where washing with a
  - 24 sink is not as easily accessible; but we did issue it to
- 11:23:37 25 everyone, yes, sir.

```
Okay. And you didn't look at whether inmates who didn't
        1
        2 have easy access to a sink would be able to get hand sanitizer
          at all, correct?
                We looked at the issue of offenders having hand sanitizer
        4
        5 and discussed that and discusses the security concerns around
11:23:52
        6 that and chose not to issue hand sanitizer; but again, CDC
        7
          recommendations indicate that soap and water are the number one
           recommended way to keep your hands clean.
                Sure. But then, after you did that, you put up signs that
       10 all the inmates can see that say, "Hey, if you can't access to
11:24:08
       11
           soap and water, use hand sanitizer, "correct?
       12
                They -- the offenders may see those signs. I have no doubt
           the offenders understand that there's not hand sanitizer
       13
           available for them.
       14
       15
                Your counsel, Mr. Cowles, said in his opening that trust
11:24:23
       16
           had broken down between TDCJ and the Court because of our
       17
           clients in the heat litigation, correct?
                          You heard that, correct?
       18
       19
                I did hear that, yes, sir.
       20
11:24:42
           Q
                Okay. And without getting into that, you understand that
       21
           to be the case, that trust is broken down, right?
       22
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for speculation.
       23
                     THE COURT: Yeah. He doesn't need to -- he doesn't
       2.4
           need to answer that. Let's move on.
       25
                     MR. KEVILLE: Okay.
11:24:57
```

```
1 BY MR. KEVILLE:
                Mr. Collier, do you understand that our clients are
          reluctant to assume you will continue to do what you say you're
           doing even after this lawsuit ends?
11:25:08
        5
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for speculation.
        6
                     THE WITNESS: No, sir, I'm not aware -- oh, sorry.
                                                                          Ι
        7
           apologize.
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
                Can you answer my question, sir.
       10
                     THE COURT: He said he wasn't aware of that.
11:25:31
       11
                     MR. KEVILLE: Okay.
       12
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
       13
                Given the breakdown in trust that your lawyers say exist,
       14
           right, and in an effort to repair the trust, now that you've had
       15
           a break and an opportunity to consult your lawyers and without
11:25:42
       16
           telling me anything that was discussed, will you now agree on
       17
           the record before Judge Ellison to do the things that we
       18
           discussed that you claim you were doing?
       19
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Compound and already ruled
       20 on by the Court.
11:25:57
       2.1
                     MR. KEVILLE: I don't think there's been any ruling.
       22
           It's a new question.
       23
                     THE COURT: Well, his repeated answer has been he
       24
           needs to consult with counsel, and I'm sure that's going to be
11:26:10 25
          the answer now. Let's move on. He doesn't have to say that.
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1 BY MR. KEVILLE:
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11:26:31

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17

18

19

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21

22

23

24

11:27:22

October or November?

- **Q** Mr. Collier, you mentioned earlier the gymnasium not having air-conditioning. Do you have any plan to use the gymnasium to increase social distancing when the temperatures cool down in
- A I do not personally know if Warden Herrera has plans to use the gymnasium when temperatures go down. He would have the discretion within being the facility warden to operationalize

how he does social distancing at that facility.

- I do not know if there is temp monitoring there,

  but that would be something that could be considered. But I do

  not know if Warden Herrera has plans for that, but he would

  certainly have an opportunity to evaluate that as we continue to

  deal with the pandemic and if the weather, obviously, changes to

  an acceptable temperature.
  - Q There is no plan that you're aware of to do that, to use the gymnasium if the temperatures cool down to increase social distancing, correct?
  - A The specific plans at the Pack Unit as it relates to social distancing Warden Herrera has developed on his own working with risk managers and working with his regional director. I personally have not been involved in that, and I'm not aware of their plans as it relates to social distancing for now or in the immediate future when temperatures change.
- 11:27:39 25 Q And you haven't given any instruction to Warden Herrera to

- 1 do that, to use the gymnasium when temperatures cool down to 2 | increase social distancing at the Pack Unit?
- Warden Herrera, as all of our wardens, were required to go in and develop their plan for social distancing. Obviously, 5 that would be now during this time and temperature. That plan 6 can be modified as we go forward, but I have not had a specific discussion with Warden Herrera as it relates to the gymnasium.
- 8 Mr. Collier, do you remember every seeing a written plan by Warden Herrera to increase social distancing at the Pack Unit?
- 10 No, sir. I didn't personally review any of our plans as it 11:28:17 11 relates to social distancing on our facilities. That would have 12 been conducted by the management team within the Correctional
  - Around March 4th of this year, you had a meeting with 14 15 Ms. Davis and Dr. Linthicum and CMHC regarding COVID-19 and
  - 16 TDCJ's response, correct?

Institutions Division.

17 Yes, sir.

3

7

1.3

11:27:57

11:28:40

- No one took any notes at that meeting, correct? 18
- 19 I have turned over all my notes. I'm not aware if anyone 20 else took notes or not. I don't remember a lot of detail of the 11:28:59 meeting, if I personally took notes; but I have turned over 22 everything I had.
  - 23 You turned those over to your counsel sometime back in May 24 or June?
- 11:29:15 25 Α Specific time frames, I'm not -- I don't recall; but I've

- 1 been keeping everything that I've been doing and providing that 2 to our general counsel to provide to the AG's Office.
- 3 At the March 4th meeting, one of the things you talked 4 about was facilities where TDCJ had empty beds that could be 5 used for isolation, including at the Pack Unit, correct?
- 6 **A** Yes, sir.

11:29:35

11:30:08

11:30:28

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- 7 And you discussed the dorm that's outside the Pack Unit that's being remodeled and that that housing could be used if you needed to move inmates, correct?
- 10 We did discuss the dormitory at the Pack Unit that was 11:29:50 11 under construction and discussed what would need to be done to 12 accelerate the construction to get it to where it could be utilized. I believe at that time it was not useable for that 13 14 purpose.
  - 1.5 Well, at the time the construction was going on, it wasn't 16 to build the unit, it was simply to alter it's wheelchair 17 accessibility, correct?
    - I'm not specifically aware of what other details were being done, but we were modifying that dormitory so that we could put, essentially, more of a -- I won't say geriatric but a population that had a higher degree of issues within that -- within that dormitory but also had medical staff out there at that dormitory.
- We were in the process of modifying four of our 11:30:45 25 dormitories that are similar around the system to help,

	1	essentially, house offenders that don't need to be in general
	2	population but would be better in that kind of an environment.
	3	So, we were modifying Pack as well as some others to do that.
	4	Q You say you were modifying but you don't know what specific
11:31:06	5	modifications were being made to the dorms at the Pack Unit,
	6	correct?
	7	A I believe they were spreading the cubicles or making sure
	8	that they were ADA compliant. They were also creating some
	9	degree of medical space, also electrical outlets for CPAP
11:31:21	10	machines. Oxygen connections, things like that were being
	11	installed.
	12	Q At the dorms in Pack Unit or is this generally you're
	13	talking?
	14	A That's within all of those locations. So, I would believe
11:31:34	15	for the Pack Unit as well.
	16	Q You were talking about this on March 4th, correct?
	17	A We were talking about the availability of that dorm, if it
	18	would have availability to, essentially, do essential social
	19	distancing or house offenders who needed to be relocated because
11:31:52	20	of COVID.
	21	Q On the documents you produced in this case
	22	MR. KEVILLE: Your Honor, I would like to put up
	23	Plaintiffs' Exhibit 172 which I would offer into evidence.
	24	THE COURT: Any objection to this exhibit?
11:32:15	25	Any objection to this exhibit?

```
1
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection as to --
        2
                     THE COURT: I can't hear you. Ms. Vasquez, any
        3
           objection to this exhibit?
        4
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Yes.
11:32:35
        5
                     THE COURT: You do object to it?
        6
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Yes.
        7
                     THE COURT: What's your objection?
        8
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Relevance.
        9
                     THE COURT: What now?
       10
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Relevance, your Honor.
11:32:44
       11
                     MR. KEVILLE: Your Honor, this is a roster of where
       12
           the inmates were housed at the Pack Unit as of May 4th, 2020,
       13
           which specifically shows that they had on May 4th, 2020, not
       14
           moved any inmates into these open dorms, E-17 and 19.
       15
                     THE COURT: This is TDCJ's own document, isn't it?
11:33:04
       16
                     MR. KEVILLE:
                                   It is.
       17
                     THE COURT: I'm going to admit it. I'm going to allow
       18
           it.
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
       19
       20
                Mr. Collier, by May 4th looking at this roster -- and I
11:33:12
           don't know if you need to see the whole thing or you can tell us
       22
           from your memory. By May 4th, 2020, there were still no inmates
       23
           that were assigned to Dorms E-17 or E-19.
       24
                          Do you understand that to be the case?
11:33:31 25 A
                I'm not familiar with the document that you have in front
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1 of me. I know what it is, but I don't use that document. I'm
        2 | not familiar with it, so I'm not sure what it's talking about
        3 where people are housed. I see inmate names and I see job
           assignments it looks like, but I'm not familiar with that
        5 document at all.
11:33:47
                You understand that by the second week of May there were
        6
        7
           still no inmates assigned to the Dorms E-17 or E-19 at the Pack
           Unit, the ones that you had discussed back on March 4th?
        9
                I know that Warden Herrera has used those dorms. I do not
           know specifically when that began.
       10
11:34:05
       11
                     MR. KEVILLE: I'm going to put up, if I would,
       12
           Plaintiffs' Exhibit 2 and move the admission of Plaintiffs'
           Exhibit 2.
       13
       14
                     THE COURT: Any objection to this exhibit?
       15
                     THE COURT REPORTER: We can't hear you, Ms. Vasquez.
11:34:14
       16
                     MS. VASQUEZ: It's confidential, your Honor, and
           should be filed under seal.
       17
                     THE COURT: This is to be filed under seal.
       18
       19
                          Any objection to that, Mr. Keville?
       2.0
                     MR. KEVILLE: No objection, your Honor.
11:34:37
                     THE COURT: Admitted under seal.
       2.1
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
       22
       23
                This is a layout of the Pack Unit showing Dorms E-17 and
       24
           19, and those two dorms have capacity for 111 inmates and 56
11:34:55 25
           inmates respectively.
```

	1	Do you understand that?
	2	A I see what's written on the drawing. I'm not familiar with
	3	the layout. I'm not arguing with you. I'm just telling you I'm
	4	not familiar with the document or the layout. Warden Herrera
11:35:11	5	would be, but I'm not I see what says. It says 19 dorm, 111
	6	capacity; 17 dorm, 56 capacity.
	7	Q Can you give us any explanation why when you discussed
	8	in early March the empty space in the E Dorm at the Pack Unit
	9	and there being over 160 additional spaces, why inmates were not
11:35:35	10	moved into those spaces for over two months?
	11	A I don't know when the dorm was actually completed and
	12	ready. I don't know when the construction was complete and when
	13	that dorm was ready for occupancy. I know it wasn't when we
	14	talked about in March. I'm not sure at what point it became
11:35:54	15	available.
	16	Q When you say it wasn't ready for occupancy, you mean all
	17	the things you were trying to do weren't done; but there was
	18	still bunks and space available in there, correct? There might
	19	not have been outlets for CPAP machines or wheelchair ramps but
11:36:10	20	there was space available, correct?
	21	MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Lack of personal knowledge.
	22	He's already testified that this is something that Warden
	23	Herrera would have knowledge about, and Mr. Collier does not.
	24	THE COURT: I'm going to allow the follow-up question.
11:36:22	25	He can say he doesn't know.

```
1
                     THE WITNESS: I'm not specific as to what needed to be
                  I don't remember that. I know we had ADA ramps at some.
        3 I don't know if that was a Pack issue. I know that one of them,
          there was also a build-out of the medical area where they would
        5 do a medical exam. I don't know if that was with the Pack Unit.
11:36:36
           So, I don't recall specifically.
          BY MR. KEVILLE:
        7
                Okay. But you never instructed Warden Herrera or Ms. Davis
           to hurry up and use the empty dorm at the Pack Unit to provide
          more space between offenders, correct?
       10
11:36:48
                No, sir, I did not instruct them specifically on that dorm
       11
       12
           at the Pack Unit.
                And you never told Warden Herrera, "Hey, it's urgent in
       13
       14
          view of the risk for these elderly inmates that you get that
       15
           dorm used to provide more distance between offenders"? You
11:37:02
           never told Warden Herrera that, correct?
       16
       17
                Not specifically, no, sir. I'm not aware of that.
       18
                Not generally either, correct?
       19
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Asked and answered.
       2.0
                     THE COURT: Let's move on. Let's move on.
11:37:17
       2.1
                     MR. KEVILLE: Okay.
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
       22
       23
                You're not aware of anyone on your staff, Lorie Davis or
       24
           anyone on her team, that had a conversation with Warden Herrera
11:37:27 25
          to say, "Hey, in view of COVID-19, let's move people into these
```

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1 empty dorms as quickly as we can"?
```

- 2 **A** I don't know if a conversation like that happened or didn't 3 happen.
- 4 You never gave any -- Lorie Davis or -- to do that? You 5 | never gave her any instruction, correct?
- Not specific that I'm aware of to the Pack Unit. We had discussions multiple times about the dormitory space, at one time looking at where we could move offenders and at one time even looked at the Pack Unit dormitory as a possible location 10 for offenders from another unit if we had to evacuate geriatric 11 offenders from another unit.
- 12 When did you have that conversation?
- That was in March as well, I believe. 13
- But Lorie Davis or no one on her team ever told you, "Hey, 14 15 we've talked to Warden Herrera and told him to move quickly and 11:38:16 16 put inmates into the empty dorm to increase social distancing"?
  - 17 I don't recall a specific discussion, sorry.
  - 18 That's okay.

11:37:42

11:38:00

11:38:32

6

7

- 19 Sir, your counsel stated in opening that you and 20 the Defendants had motive and incentive to rely on what medical 21 experts said about responding to COVID-19.
- 22 You heard that, correct?
- 23 **A** Yes, sir.
- You never even read the declarations that were submitted in 24 25 this lawsuit by the medical professionals and the prison 11:38:47

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administration professionals, correct?
        1
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Vaque, argumentative.
        2
        3
                     THE COURT: I'm going to allow it.
        4
                     THE WITNESS: I have not personally read the expert
           depositions from the Plaintiffs' side.
11:39:01
        5
        6
          BY MR. KEVILLE:
        7
                And you didn't direct Dr. Linthicum to read the medical
          expert declarations that were submitted in this lawsuit,
           correct?
       10 A No, sir.
11:39:14
       11
                You didn't direct anyone to -- that reports to you to read
       12 the declarations from the doctors and prison administration
       13 experts who submitted sworn testimony in this case, correct?
       14 A
                I did not direct anyone specifically, no, sir.
       15 Q
                And you didn't direct them -- I think you mentioned
11:39:30
           deposition testimony. You haven't given anybody the direction
       16
       17
           to read the declarations or any of the things that the medical
       18
           experts have provided, correct?
                From the Plaintiffs' side of experts, no, sir. Again, we
       19
       20
          relied on our university -- two teaching universities as well as
11:39:44
       21
           Dr. Linthicum and the Correctional Managed Healthcare as our
       22
           team of experts to help us guide and how we can help with
       23
           COVID-19; and we continue to rely on them.
       24
                So, you will only rely on what the experts on your side say
11:40:01 25 | in this case, correct?
```

```
I have a high degree of confidence after working with the
        1
        2 two universities partners, Texas Tech Health Science Center and
          University of Texas Medical Branch. I had worked with them for
          many, many years in my career; and I have an extreme amount of
        4
11:40:20
           confidence in not only what those teaching universities provide
           as far as information and direction to the agency.
        6
        7
                          But Dr. Lannette Linthicum I would consider as
           probably the best national expert in correctional care that
        8
           exists, and she is on our staff. I also consider highly the
           experts that are on the Correctional Managed Healthcare such as
       10
11:40:33
       11
           Dr. Keiser who also serves as the health director for Galveston
       12
           County.
       13
                          We have the experts within our reach that provide
       14
           great advice to this agency on how we should take care of our
           medical care.
       15
11:40:51
       16
                Because of that, you chose not to even consider what the
           medical experts and prison experts in this case had said on the
       17
           other side?
       18
       19
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Argumentative. Asked and
       20 answered.
11:41:03
       2.1
                     THE COURT: I'm going to allow it.
       22
                     THE WITNESS: I did not read those experts'
       23
           depositions.
       24
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
11:41:14 25
           Q
             Or their declarations?
```

- 1 Correct. A Mr. Collier, during this COVID-19 event, TDCJ modified its 3 grievance policy, correct? We actually modified the time frame. We never have 4 5 modified the exact policy. What we did was in late May we 11:41:24 6 created a specific code for COVID-19 grievances and then 7 required that staff have to respond to those grievances within 8 15 days and that staff are not allowed to give an extension or request an extension on those grievances. 10 **o** But two things changed, right? You're not allowing 11:41:46 11 extensions and the time frame has been modified to 15 days for 12 each step, correct? Yes, sir, we made those adjustments. 13
- 14 **Q** And by the way, are you aware that there are over a hundred -- probably way more than hundred COVID-19 grievances that have been filed at the Pack Unit?
  - MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Vague.
  - 18 THE COURT: Allow it.
- 19 THE WITNESS: I'm not specifically aware of the number 20 filed at the Pack Unit.
  - 21 BY MR. KEVILLE:
  - 22 **Q** Do you know whether it's over hundred, less than hundred?
  - 23 **A** Again, not specifically aware.
- 24 **Q** Okay. Ultimately, it's Warden Herrera's responsibility to ensure how a grievance is addressed at the Step I phase in the

	1	Pack Unit, correct?
	2	A There's a grievance investigator that works for a different
	3	division than Mr. Herrera. They work for the Administrative
	4	Review and Risk Management Division and have a separate
11:42:49	5	reporting mechanism. That grievance investigator would receive
	6	the grievance and then counsel with the warden on the solution
	7	for the grievance and provide that would work with the warden
	8	on the response for that grievance.
	9	But there's a grievance investigator that works
11:43:03	10	for a different entity within TDCJ assigned to that facility.
	11	Q All right. Ultimately, though, it's the warden's final
	12	recommendation as to how you resolve a Step I grievance,
	13	correct?
	14	A The warden would make a recommendation. If the grievance
11:43:18	15	investigator felt that that recommendation was not suitable,
	16	they certainly can take that up their chain of command.
	17	Q Did you answer that differently in your deposition, sir?
	18	A I don't really recall.
	19	MR. KEVILLE: Allen, could you put up his deposition
11:43:45	20	at page 51, line 22, through 52, line 1.
	21	BY MR. KEVILLE:
	22	Q You were asked, "Though, ultimately, it's the warden's
	23	responsibility to ensure how a grievance is addressed at the
	24	Step I phase?"

You answered, "It would be the warden's final

11:44:11 25

- 1 | recommendation; and yes, sir, that resolves the Step I." 2 Do you see that?
- 3 I see that, yes, sir.

13

14

16

17

11:44:52

11:45:08

- Okay. Do you stand by that testimony? 4
- 11:44:18 5 **A** I would not disagree that the warden makes the 6 recommendation; however, I would supplement that the grievance 7 investigator on the unit, in many cases they're going to agree with the warden's recommendation; but if for some reason they don't, they do have the ability to address that through a separate chain of command. 10 11:44:34
  - 11 Now, the Step I grievance comes after informal resolution in TDCJ's policy regarding processing of grievances, correct?
  - Step I grievance is the initial phase of the grievance process within the procedure. So, you -- the grievance policy 15 does recommend before you file a grievance that you -- or dictates that before you file a grievance you need to try to find an informal resolution.
  - 18 Okay. And that's a dictate of the policy, you have to informal resolution in TDCJ's policy, correct? 19
  - 20 I can't remember the specific wording, but I know it's not a consistent requirement. But I know that it encourages it, and 22 it may specifically state that it needs to be attempted. Before 23 you go into the grievance process, you need to try to informally 24 resolve the issue.
- 11:45:30 25 And up until the recent change you made at the end of May,

```
1 the grievance policy was that, if the TDCJ staff did not give
           themselves an extension, it would be 80 days before TDCJ was
           required to go through Step I and Step II grievances, correct?
        4
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Assumes facts.
11:45:55
        5
                     THE COURT: I'm going to allow it.
        6
                     THE WITNESS: The grievance policy allows for when a
        7
           grievance is filed there is a window of 40 days that requires
           the response to be within 40 days. There can be an extension
           requested for an additional 40 days.
       10 BY MR. KEVILLE:
11:46:10
       11
                Correct. So, you could have 80 days for Step I if you got
           an extension, correct?
                Yes, sir, you could prior to the modification of the
       13
       14
          protocols.
                Right. And now, after the modification, it's no longer 40
       1.5
11:46:19
       16
           days or 80 days to respond to Step I, it's 15 days and you can't
       17
           get an extension, correct?
       18
                It would be 15 days; and for a COVID-related grievance --
       19
           the emergency grievances have always been required to be --
       20
           they're not extendable, if I'm not mistaken, if it's an
11:46:41
       21
           emergency.
       22
                          But for a COVID-specific grievance, it would be
       23
          15 days; and it would be coded as a COVID-related grievance and
       24
           tracked specific to that code so that we can identify those
11:46:58 25
           issues. Also, you could have a medical grievance; and I believe
```

- 1 the time frames may be different on that as well.
- 2  $\mathbf{Q}$  Now, to get through Step I and Step II as of May 26th, the
- 3 maximum allowable for a COVID-19-related grievance is 30 days,
- 4 correct?
- 11:47:14 5 A Yes, sir. You could have a maximum of 15 days on Step I
  6 and then a maximum of 15 days on Step II.
  - 7 **Q** And the reason TDCJ reduced the amount of time to 8 investigate a grievance related to COVID-19 is because the old 9 80-day extendable to 160-day policy was way too slow to address
- 11:47:33 10 COVID-19 grievances, correct?
  - 11 **A** There's really nothing -- the policy that we have in place
  - 12 -- and it still remains in place. It's not a bad policy or a
  - 13 policy that's been found to be an issue. We just identified
  - 14 that we've never been in this situation before, never dealt with
- 11:47:49 15 something like COVID-19, and we wanted to be as proactive as we
  - 16 could in identifying any complaints or issues that come through
  - 17 the grievance process. So, we created a protocol to do that and
  - 18 bring those to our attention and then resolve them in a quicker
  - 19 manner.
- 11:48:04 20 **Q** Yes. And I understand this is a completely unique new
  - 21 circumstance, and that's the reason you made a carve-out of your
  - 22 original grievance policy and said for COVID-19-related
  - 23 grievances, we're going to reduce that to 30 days, no extensions
  - 24 because the older policy was too slow to deal with those
- 11:48:22 25 specific grievances, the COVID-19 grievances?

```
I guess I don't that I ever came to the conclusion that the
        1
        2 existing policy was too slow or that there was some other issue
          with it. I just identified that we wanted to know if we had
           COVID-related issues quickly, and the offenders knew if they
11:48:41
           filed a COVID-related grievance that we would respond to it as
           quickly as we could.
        6
        7
                          Other grievances have continued on the regular
        8 track; and again, there is nothing necessarily wrong with that
           at all. But right now, I think it's important that we identify
       10
           and respond to those as quickly as we can.
11:48:54
       11
                Not because people can get sick and die so quickly that you
       12
           needed to have this faster time frame, correct?
       13
                I'm not sure I understand your question.
       14
                Sure. The reason you're saying, "Hey, the grievance policy
       15
           is fine for a lot of things but we felt it was necessary to
11:49:16
       16
           reduce the time to respond to COVID-19 grievances" is because
       17
           COVID-19, as your counsel said earlier, is fast and fatal; and
       18
           you needed to have a policy that could react to that?
       19
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for a hypothetical.
       20 Calls for speculation.
11:49:45
       2.1
                     THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, I couldn't understand
       22
           you.
       23
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Calling for hypothetical. Calling for
       24
           speculation.
       25
                     THE COURT: I'm going to allow it.
11:49:45
```

```
1
                     THE WITNESS: Our aim at reducing the time frame,
        2 Mr. Keville, was so that we could just be as proactive as we can
          be on COVID-19 issues. That was --
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
11:50:00
        5
                Fine. And the reason you were being proactive is because
           your old policy had such a long time frame that people could get
        6
        7
           sick and die before the grievance was responded to, correct?
        8
                          You recognized that?
        9
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Same objection.
       10
                     THE COURT: Overruled.
11:50:13
       11
                     THE WITNESS: I wouldn't agree as you say,
       12
           Mr. Keville.
          BY MR. KEVILLE:
       13
       14
                You do agree that one of the reasons you reduced the amount
       15
           of time to investigate COVID-19-related grievances is because
11:50:24
       16
           the old 80-day policy was too slow to address COVID-19
       17
           grievances?
       18
                No, sir, I don't think I said it was too slow; and I've
       19
           already said that. What I said was we just wanted -- this is
       20
           what we had been focused on for the last three months as an
11:50:41
       21
           entire agency.
       22
                          So, COVID-related grievances were another area
           that we wanted to make sure, one, we knew that they were COVID
       23
       24
           really; and two, that we could respond to them as quickly as we
11:50:55 25
           could. That's -- we've done many things as it relates to COVID.
```

```
1 That was just how we addressed it within the grievance protocol.
        2 Q
                Did you answer that question differently when asked in your
        3
           deposition, sir?
                I'm happy to look at it. I'm not sure how different it
        4
        5 would have been.
11:51:14
                Remember that you said the old policy allowed more time
        6
        7
           than we felt was appropriate for COVID-19-type grievances?
                I do recall that in my deposition I was able to clarify for
           you that information within our policy was our policies were
       10
           fine, we just wanted to be as proactive as we could with
11:51:35
       11
           COVID-19.
       12
                Okay.
                     MR. KEVILLE: Allen, could you put up his deposition
       13
       14
           page 72, line 20, through page 73, line 3 -- or actually,
       15
           through line 6.
11:52:03
       16
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
       17
                You were asked "The reason you reduced the amount of time
       18
           to investigate a grievance related to COVID-19 is because the
       19
           old 80-day policy was way too slow to address those grievances?"
       20
                          And you said, "It would certainly be fair to say
11:52:14
       21
           that we felt the policy as it was allowed more time than we felt
       22
           was appropriate for COVID-19-type grievances."
       23
                          Do you remember that testimony?
       24
                I see it. Yes, sir, I remember it.
           Α
```

Do you stand by that testimony?

11:52:26 25

Q

1 - 101

```
1
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. The question is vaque.
        2
           Overbroad.
        3
                     THE COURT: I'm going to allow it.
        4
                     THE WITNESS: And I'm not looking at the end of my
11:52:39
           deposition, but I was requestioned on that item by the Attorney
           General's Office and I thought provided better clarification at
        6
        7
           that time.
          BY MR. KEVILLE:
                My question was different, sir. Do you stand by the
       10 testimony you gave that we just read, that you said, "It would
11:52:51
       11
           certainly be fair to say we felt the policy as it was allowed
           more time than we felt was appropriate for COVID-19-type
       13
           grievances"?
       14
                I would agree that's my testimony, but I would also agree
       1.5
           that I had additional testimony that clarified that.
11:53:05
       16
                And another thing that happened with this change in the
       17
           grievance policy is that you went faster to change the policy
       18
           than the normal approval process, correct?
                Actually, in this case, we didn't necessarily need to
       19
       20
           change the entire policy, we needed to make a modification of
11:53:22
       21
           the existing protocols which we put in place.
       22
                Right. And you felt that making this change needed to be
       23
           done faster than the normal administrative approval process
       24
           would take, correct?
11:53:42 25
          Α
                We did not go through a modification of the existing
```

```
1 policy. That policy still stands today. What we did was modify
        2 protocols on the time frames that we would respond to COVID-19
           grievances as well as the code for specific COVID-19 grievances.
                Did you answer that question differently in your
        4
           deposition, sir?
11:54:04
        6
                I don't recall.
        7
           Q
                Okay.
                     MR. KEVILLE: Allen, could you put up page 89 of his
        8
           deposition, line 12 through 18 -- or 20.
       10 BY MR. KEVILLE:
11:54:19
       11
                We were talking about the change to the grievance policy
       12
           and you were asked: "And you felt even making this change
       13
           needed to be done faster than the normal administrative process
       14
           would take, correct, making this change to the grievance
           policy?"
       15
11:54:33
       16
                          And you said, "Yes, sir."
       17
                Yes, sir, I see exactly that. I don't argue with that at
           Α
       18
           all.
       19
           Q
                Okay.
       20
                I will tell you that in doing that, when you're making a
11:54:40
           protocol change within the system, you don't necessarily always
       21
       22
           go through a policy change and go through that process; and
       23
           again, I don't know that this will be a permanent adjustment.
       24
           But for right now, it is an adjustment in the protocol.
       25
                          But we did not go through the whole process to
11:54:57
```

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1-103
```

- 1 modify the policy. That would definitely have taken a long
  2 time, but it also may not be a policy modification we intend to
  3 make for the long haul.
  - Q But you stand by your testimony that you went faster than the normal process would to make this change?
- 6 A Yes, sir.

4

10

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

11:56:32 25

11:56:14

11:55:11

11:55:40

Okay. I think you said earlier -- let me just be sure -- that you left it up to Warden Herrera to determine where he could enforce increased social distancing at the Pack Unit?

Throughout the process and throughout the time that we

- dealt with COVID-19, each of our unit wardens developed a plan on their facilities how they could do social distancing. They worked with our risk managers that are assigned to the facility.

  They helped develop those plans. So, I know Warden Herrera has done that at the Pack Unit.
  - Q I'm sorry. Maybe my question wasn't clear, and I apologize. You left it up to Warden Herrera to determine where he can enforce increased social distancing at the Pack Unit, correct?
  - A Each warden, yes, sir. Each warden working with risk management. Warden Herrera knows the Pack facility better than anyone else. And his expertise as the warden of that facility would be the one that we would want developing the social distancing plan working, obviously, with our risk managers and then having that plan approved by his management team.

```
1
                And you said each warden, including Warden Herrera,
        2 developed a plan for their unit; but you've never seen Warden
          Herrera's plan for the Pack Unit, correct?
                I did not personally review it, no, sir.
        4
          Α
        5 Q
11:56:49
               You've never seen?
               No, sir.
        6 A
        7
                Don't even know if it exists?
                I have no reason to believe it doesn't exist, but I haven't
        8
           personally seen it.
                Okay. And it's on Warden Herrera and his leadership team
       10 Q
11:56:57
       11 to make the necessary adaptions to enforce social distancing at
           the Pack Unit, correct?
                I'm sorry, Mr. Keville, could you say that again. I
       13
       14
          apologize.
       15
                Sure. It's on Warden Herrera to make the necessary
11:57:10
       16
           adaptions to enforce social distancing at the Pack Unit,
       17
           correct?
       18
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Vague and overbroad.
       19
                     THE COURT: I'm going to allow it.
       2.0
11:57:22
                     THE WITNESS: Warden Herrera would develop the plan of
       21
          how they're going to do social distancing at the Pack Unit; and
           yes, through his management team, they would enforce the social
       22
```

23

24

11:57:37 25

distancing at the Pack Unit.

Gayle Dye, CSR, RDR, CRR - 713.250.5582

And did you give him any specific instructions, Warden

Herrera, where you said, "Hey, I want you to make a plan"? Or

```
1 was that just something that you assumed was filtered down to
        2 him through others?
        3 A
                I know that each warden conducting a social distancing
          plan. I know that Ms. Davis and I had discussions about that.
        5 I have no reason to question that Warden Herrera did that.
11:57:53
                Did you ever instruct anything about rearranging inmates in
        6
        7
          the dorms at the Pack Unit, for example, moving people into open
        8 bunks or having people change the way they're sleeping so
           they're head to foot? Anything like that that you did
       10
           specifically for the Pack Unit to increase social distancing?
11:58:23
       11
                I have had discussions about head to foot as it's
       12
           identified within the CDC quidelines, but I don't recall
           specifically a discussion about Pack. I'm not sure that I did.
       13
       14
           I don't recall one specifically.
                Let's talk a minute about contact tracing. You're not
11:58:43
       15
       16
           aware of any written policy at TDCJ for how TDCJ is supposed to
       17
           perform contact tracing, correct?
                For offenders or staff?
       18
                For -- well, offenders. Let's start there.
       19
       20 A
                Okay. For offenders, no, sir. I'm personally not aware of
11:59:03
       21
           written instructions. They may exist within the Correctional
       22
           Institution Division, but I'm not specifically aware of that.
       23
                And is there a specific written policy for how you perform
```

contact tracing for staff?

24

11:59:19 25 **A** 

We perform contact tracing for staff with the assistance of

```
1-106
```

```
1 the Health Services Division and, essentially, the Department of
        2 | Health Services. There may be specific policies related to that
        3 because they extend even beyond our agency, but I'm not
          personally aware of a TDCJ policy. I'm surely not saying it
11:59:40
          exists, but I'm not saying it doesn't exist either.
        6
                Now, when we discussed contact tracing in your deposition,
        7
          you said you understand that the unwritten practice at TDCJ for
           contact tracing for positive COVID-19 inmates is a review of
           where that inmate was housed and looking for who that inmate has
          been around during the last 14 days; and then, those inmates
       10
12:00:03
           would be placed on observation, correct?
       11
       12
                Yes, sir, I believe that's what I said. I believe the
           actual protocol is 48 hours, not 14 days.
       13
       14
                Okay. So, you thought the protocol was 14 days; and since
           then, you found out it's only 48 hours?
       15
12:00:19
       16
                I believe in our deposition, if I remember as I read it, I
       17
           even was confused as you and I talked about that time frame
       18
           because I did -- but I absolutely agree I said 14 days when we
           started. And then -- but it is 48 hours. I confirmed that
       19
       20
           after our deposition -- my deposition.
12:00:36
       2.1
                You also said the other thing that was part of the TDCJ
           practice, unwritten practice for contact tracing, was, if the
       22
       23
           offender was working, identify individuals that he has been
       24
           around through work. Do you recall that? Is that part of the
12:01:02 25 practice or did you find something different out later?
```

	1	A For contact tracing for an offender. You would, "A," look
	2	at the housing area. We know who is housed where on a facility.
	3	We also know who works there where on a facility. So, you
	4	would look at the housing area; and if the offender had a job
12:01:18	5	and had been working, you would have identified, if that
	6	individual was working, who were the other offenders that were
	7	working at the same time as well as the other staff.
	8	<b>Q</b> And I think the last thing you said was part of the
	9	unwritten practice of contact tracing was identify by which
12:01:36	10	staff had prolonged contact within six feet of the offender.
	11	Do you recall that?
	12	A Contact tracing, if I'm not mistaken, would have a
	13	discussion about anybody who's had contact within a less than
	14	six-foot window for an extended period of time such as 15
12:01:54	15	minutes.
	16	<b>Q</b> All right.
	17	MR. KEVILLE: I'd like to put up Plaintiffs' Exhibit
	18	186 which I will move into evidence.
	19	THE COURT: Any objection?
12:02:10	20	Any objection to this exhibit?
	21	Ms. Vasquez, is there any objection to this
	22	exhibit?
	23	MS. VASQUEZ: Is this a document received from
	24	Defendants?
12:02:34	25	MR. KEVILLE: This was a document that you produced.

```
1
                     MS. VASQUEZ: No objection.
        2
                     THE COURT: Admitted without objection.
        3 BY MR. KEVILLE:
                Okay. This is a contact tracing form for TDCJ.
        4
12:02:46
        5
                          Do you recognize that?
                Not specifically. I don't use the form, but I won't arque
        6
        7
           with you that that's a form that we use.
        8
                Okay. Earlier, you said that contact tracing had been done
           after Mr. Clerkly passed away, correct?
       10
          Α
                I believe that's my understanding, yes, sir.
12:03:02
       11
                Okay.
          Q
       12
                     MR. KEVILLE: Let's go to page 3 of this Plaintiffs'
       13 Exhibit 186.
       14
                          And blow up the bottom there.
       15
                          Let's start at the top, actually. Let's start at
12:03:17
       16 the top, Allen.
           BY MR. KEVILLE:
       17
       18
                First box says timeline starting two days prior to symptoms
       19
           appeared, what housing areas, populations has the offender been
       20
           in; and there is nothing filled out, correct?
12:03:37
       2.1
                I'm just grabbing another form, Mr. Keville, so I can see
           what you're talking about. You're talking about -- I see
       22
       23
           nothing filled out, yes, sir.
       24
                Yeah. And then, if we go down to the next section, it says
12:03:44 25 timeline starting two days prior to the date symptoms appeared
```

- 1 with all staff who were working in the housing area where the 2 offender was living on both days. And you see there is nothing 3 filled out there either?
  - Yes, sir, I see that.

4

14

16

17

18

2.1

22

23

12:04:38

12:04:53

- Okay. So, then, we see in the bottom section COVID-19 12:03:57 6 offender source contact tracing continued timeline. So, there's 7 a timeline written out in the bottom, but there are zero people identified in the contact tracing form for Mr. Clerkly that should have been figured out, correct?
- 10 It's say offender -- let's see Clerkly lived in 3 dorm, 12:04:22 11 bunk 49. There were a total of 53 offenders. So, it's my 12 understanding, obviously -- because we tested that dorm as well. 13 We knew he was housed with at the facility.
  - So, I don't know if that's what you're asking; 15 but I know that we knew where he was housed. Also knew, if I'm not mistaken, he had not worked during the two days prior to him leaving. I think it was two weeks before that when he was workina.
  - Did you know -- is there any investigation here on when he 19 20 was working?
    - I don't see it documented. My understanding is it had been at least two weeks before he left the unit that he was actually working.
- 24 One of the reasons he wasn't working was because he had 12:05:05 25 symptoms that appeared earlier than April 11th, correct?

```
1
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Calls for speculation.
        2
                     THE COURT: Overruled.
        3
                     THE WITNESS: No, sir. I'm not aware of -- if he had
           COVID-related symptoms prior to that or not.
        5 BY MR. KEVILLE:
12:05:20
                Mr. Clerkly had shortness of breath and breathing
        6
        7
           difficulties that he reported on April 5th, April 8th, and April
          11th.
        8
        9
                          Are you aware of that?
       10
                    MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. This is misleading, your
12:05:30
       11
          Honor.
       12
                     THE COURT: I'm going to allow it.
       13
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Also, Bryan Collier has no personal
       14 knowledge about Mr. Clerkly's --
       15
                     THE COURT: He can say that. No personal knowledge.
12:05:43
       16 He can say that.
       17
                     THE WITNESS: And I don't, your Honor, I'm sorry. I
       18
           don't have any knowledge of his medical.
       19
                     THE COURT: Okay.
       20 BY MR. KEVILLE:
12:05:50
       21
                Do you know if Mr. Clerkly had gone to the medical
       22
           department several times in the week before? Do you know that
       23
           generally?
       24
             No, sir.
           Α
12:05:57 25 Q If he should -- if he did, that should show up on this
```

Gayle Dye, CSR, RDR, CRR - 713.250.5582

```
form, correct?
        1
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Incomplete hypothetical.
        2
        3
           Assumes facts.
        4
                     THE COURT: I'm going to allow it.
12:06:12
        5
                     THE WITNESS: In contact tracing, if he went to
        6 medical, yes, sir, I think you would look at where that person
        7
          has been in the 48 hours prior. If he had gone there in the 48
          hours, if he was seen in medical, then you would -- that would
           probably be something identified.
       10 BY MR. KEVILLE:
12:06:24
       11
                You see the date for the timeline is April 11th, correct?
       12
                I see that, yes, sir.
                That's the date Clerkly had passed away, right? There was
       13
       14
          no tracing done for even the two days before the day he passed
       15
           away?
12:06:40
       16
                It was my understanding that Clerkly had been in the dorm.
       17
           They identified the offenders in the dorm as offenders that were
       18
           put on medical restriction. That's the same offenders that we
           tested, and it was also my understanding through discussions
       19
       20
           that he had not worked for two weeks prior to the time he was
12:06:56
           out of the unit.
       2.1
                In this contact tracing, there is no identification of
       22
       23
           where Mr. Clerkly may have gone outside the dorm or who he may
       2.4
           have been in contact with, correct? It just says where he
12:07:13 25
          lived?
```

- 1 A It does, yes, sir, you're right.
- 2 Q It says contact -- the contact tracing is supposed to go
- 3 and find who he's been in contact with, correct?
- 4 A If he had contact with someone two days prior to that
  12:07:28 5 outside of his living area, that would have to be a discussion
  - 6 that you would have as you do the contact investigation. I
  - 7 don't know whether Warden Herrera talked to medical, if that was
  - 8 identified, or if he was even in medical or seen in his -- as
  - 9 you say, was he seen during that time? I'm not sure if he was
  - 10 seen or not or if he was seen in the dorm or in medical, but
  - 11 that would certainly be part of the discussion.
  - 12 **Q** Well, we can just see right in the first line we're looking
  - 13 at here on the screen about the timeline. It says he received
  - 14 daily breathing treatments. But there's nothing identifying who
- 12:08:00 15 the medical people he saw that had the daily breathing
  - 16 treatments, correct?

12:07:45

- 17 A No documentation of that here, yes, sir.
- 18 Q No documentation of anyone he saw from the medical
- 19 department, correct?
- 12:08:15 20 **A** Not that I can see.
  - 21 Q No documentation of what officers he came in contact with
  - 22 or, heck, even what officers were in the dorm that he lived in
  - 23 for the two days prior to April 11th, correct?
  - 24 A There's no documentation. The facility would know that;
- 12:08:31 25 and then -- again; but it's not documented on the form.

- Right. And it's supposed to be documented on the form if 1 2 you're doing contact tracing, correct?
- I would think you would document the staff that they had contact with; but I haven't completed a form, haven't done that; 5 but I would think that would be part of the protocol.
- So, are you saying sometimes at TDCJ people just say, heck, 6 7 we know who he's been in contact with and they don't put it on the form or are you --
  - I don't know. Mr. Keville, that would be the first contact form probably done probably at the Pack Unit because he was the first Pack Unit offender. I don't know details. I don't do the form. I'm not specifically familiar with the form.
  - But it would have been really important since he was the first inmate on the Pack Unit who died of COVID-19 to make sure you get the contact tracing right on that one. You would agree with that, right?
  - I think it would be important to get the contact tracing correct on anyone.
  - And what we see on this form, Plaintiffs' Exhibit 186, is there is not a single individual identified who Mr. Clerkly had contact with either the two days before the day he died or 14 weeks (sic). There's no one, correct?
  - There is no name documented. I don't know that that equates to that nothing occurred. Because I do know we tested the dorm. So, I would have confidence that Warden Herrera knew

12:09:32

3

10

11

12

13

14

1.5

16

17

18

19

20

21

23

24

12:08:46

12:09:00

12:09:17

12:09:50 25

- 1 what staff he was in contact with; and if he was in medical, he
- 2 | would also know what medical staff and also what medical staff
- 3 were wearing if they had contact with him. If they're in full
- 4 protective equipment, then I think the warden would know that as
- 12:10:09 5 well. He didn't document that on the form.
  - 6 Q Right. And he didn't tell you he knew or did any of that, 7 correct?
  - A Warden Herrera and I have not had a discussion about that contact tracing specifically.
- 12:10:18 10 **Q** And you would agree, at least according to what's on this form, contact tracing was not done correctly. This is the form 12 for Leonard Clerkly that you guys gave us.
  - 13 A Yes, sir. But again, I didn't provide the instruction.
  - 14 I've not ever done a contact investigation personally. Yes,
- 12:10:37 15 it's not documented. That level of documentation is not there.
  - 16 **Q** Do you agree that -- do you know that everyone in that dorm 17 tested negative after Mr. Clerkly died?
  - 18 A Yes, sir.
- 19 **Q** And then, after that up until now, over 400 people have tested positive in the Pack Unit, correct?
  - 21 **A** Yes, sir.

death?

2.4

- 22 **Q** Do you think maybe you could have done a better job with the contact tracing in isolating COVID-19 after Mr. Clerkly's
- MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Argumentative. Vague.

	1	THE COURT: I'm going to allow it.
	2	MS. VASQUEZ: Personal knowledge.
	3	THE WITNESS: I don't have any reason to believe that
	4	the contact investigation with Mr. Clerkly has anything to do
12:11:19	5	with additional positives on the unit. We tested everyone that
	6	to my knowledge had been exposed to him on the unit, and those
	7	tests were negative. And it was sometime before we had an
	8	additional positive, if I'm not mistaken.
	9	BY MR. KEVILLE:
12:11:31	10	Q Sure. But as far as you can see from this form, nobody
	11	went back and tried to isolate specific individuals either
	12	outside the dorm that he came in contact with or people who came
	13	inside the dorm, no staff, no medical. None of that was done at
	14	least according to the form you gave us, correct?
12:11:47	15	A It's not documented on the form.
	16	Q Mr. Collier, you've had no discussions with anyone about
	17	early release as a way to social distance increase social
	18	distancing at the Pack Unit, correct?
	19	MS. VASQUEZ: Objection, your Honor. Early release is
12:12:07	20	not anything that Plaintiffs have pled.
	21	THE COURT: I'm going to allow it.
	22	THE WITNESS: TDCJ during the COVID event has
	23	continued to make sure that anyone scheduled for release or
	24	anyone already enrolled in a program continued so we kept
12:12:23	25	releasing on track, and we did not delay people's release so

		Collier - As On Cross/Keville
	1	that they could continue in programs.
	2	We did have to stop placement of offenders into
	3	programs when we became we stopped intake and, essentially,
	4	became gridlocked because we had so many units. We were not
12:12:41	5	transferring offenders to new units. So, we had released
	6	everyone that we could during the course of the event.
	7	And our overall population has gone from 142,000
	8	to 126,000. So, we had released we did not do an early
	9	release. We don't have the authority to do an early release or
12:12:58	10	any other mechanism, and I have not had a discussion about doing
	11	that with any outside entity.
	12	Q Mr. Collier, you kept daily notes on a notepad of your
	13	meetings and you're looking at issues regarding COVID-19 and
	14	then reporting that information out, correct?
12:13:15	15	A I kept a lot of notes during the whole event. So, I kept
	16	notes that I did provide to the attorneys.
	17	<b>Q</b> And you took those sheets of your notes off your daily
	18	notes and you gave it to your assistant every day, correct, the
	19	notes about COVID-19?
12:13:32	20	A They were notes that I gathered before we, typically, did
	21	our conference calls in the afternoon. But it could have been
	22	notes from even other events as well, yes, sir.
	23	Q And you did that every day since March; and then, you gave

24 those notes to your counsel, correct, your general counsel?

12:13:50 25 **A** 

Yes, sir.

	1	<b>Q</b> You were deposed on June 4th, 2020, and you said you had
	2	given those notes to your counsel, correct?
	3	A That was my understanding, yes, sir.
	4	Q Can you explain why those notes were never produced,
12:14:02	5	Mr. Collier?
	6	MS. VASQUEZ: Objection. Personal knowledge. He
	7	doesn't know why they weren't produced.
	8	THE COURT: If he doesn't know, he can say he doesn't
	9	know. I'm going to allow it.
12:14:15	10	THE WITNESS: No, sir, I don't I know I provided
	11	those notes, but I don't know that answer.
	12	MR. KEVILLE: Your Honor, I'll pass the witness now.
	13	THE COURT: Okay.
	14	Any questions for this witness, Ms. Vasquez?
12:14:24	15	Ms. Vasquez, any questions of this witness?
	16	MS. VASQUEZ: Yes, your Honor.
	17	DIRECT EXAMINATION
	18	BY MS. VASQUEZ:
	19	Q Mr. Collier, what is your understanding as to what prompts
12:15:01	20	contact tracing to be done?
	21	A When we receive information regarding a positive test
	22	result, that would trigger the next steps of doing the contact
	23	investigation.
	24	Q So, once you receive a positive test result, then you can
12:15:20	25	conduct contact tracing for the previous 48 hours from that test

```
1 result, correct?
        2 A
                From the test date.
        3 Q
             From the test date?
        4 A
               Yes, ma'am.
        5 Q
                Earlier, Mr. Keville was questioning you regarding the
12:15:29
           grievance procedure. Is there an instance where the grievance
        6
        7
          procedure that has been in place with TDCJ was shown to be
        8 | ineffective or not to respond quickly enough to any grievance --
           any COVID-19-related grievances?
       10 A
                I don't know of any specific COVID grievance in that
12:16:02
       11 | category.
       12
                So, there was never an instance where the previous
       13
           deadlines in place for the grievance procedure were shown to be
       14
          too long to adequately respond to a COVID-19 grievance?
       15 A
                No, ma'am. I'm not -- this -- the change that we made was
12:16:28
       16
           not in response to an incident or a grievance that I'm aware of
       17
           or a specific notation of a grievance problem. It was just to
           try to make sure that we got that information sooner and
       18
           responded to it and had it coded so we could clearly identify
       19
       20
          it.
12:16:45
       2.1
                Earlier, Mr. Keville was questioning you regarding your
       22
           deposition.
       23
                     MR. KEVILLE: Your Honor, this is improper. Excuse
       24 me.
12:17:08 25
                     THE COURT: There's an objection. What's the
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objection? Hold on a second, we got --
        1
        2
                     THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, there's, like, five
        3
           people talking at the same time. Ms. Vasquez.
        4
                (Simultaneous speaking; indiscernible.)
12:17:15
        5
                     THE COURT: Ms. Vasquez, can you hear me?
        6
                (No response.)
        7
                     THE COURT: Ms. Vasquez, can you hear me?
                (No response.)
        8
        9
                     THE COURT: Ms. Vasquez, can you hear me?
       10
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Yes.
12:17:51
       11
                     THE COURT: We couldn't hear you. So, none of that
       12
           question has been -- has been transcribed.
       13
                          And do we have an objection, too?
                     MR. KEVILLE: Yes, your Honor. I object to putting up
       14
       15 his deposition. This is not impeachment. This is leading him
12:18:02
       16
           with his own prior testimony. She's actually reading in his
       17
           testimony. If she has a question, ask the question. But you
       18
           can't put up his deposition testimony in advance of the
       19
           question.
       2.0
                     THE COURT: What is the purpose of showing him his
12:18:16
       21
           deposition testimony, Ms. Vasquez?
       22
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Mr. Keville attempted to impeach
       23
           Mr. Collier earlier with deposition testimony, and this is
       24
           deposition testimony from the same deposition where he testified
12:18:30 25 consistent with what he is saying now.
```

```
1
                     THE COURT: Well, you can ask him about that; but you
        2 | can't show it to him yet. You can ask him about that.
          BY MS. VASQUEZ:
                Mr. Collier, what you're testifying to today regarding the
        4
          grievance procedure and the COVID-19 change to the grievance
12:18:49
           procedure, is that consistent with how you testified in your
        6
        7
           deposition?
        8
                Yes, ma'am.
        9
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Pass the witness.
       10
                     THE COURT: You pass the witness?
12:19:06
       11
                     MS. VASQUEZ: Yes.
       12
                     THE COURT: Okay.
       13
                          Any redirect?
       14
                     MR. KEVILLE: No, your Honor, no recross.
       15
                     THE COURT: Okay, you may step down. Thank you,
12:19:16
       16
           Director Collier. Thank you.
       17
                     THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
       18
                     THE COURT: What would you like to do, guys? Do you
       19
           want to take a break now or you want to do one more witness?
           What's your preference.
       20
12:19:30
       2.1
                          You're excused, Mr. Collier. Thank you. You're
       22
           excused.
       23
                     THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
       24
                     MR. KEVILLE: Your Honor, for Plaintiffs, our next
12:19:37 25 witness is Mr. Valentine. He will take a little while.
```

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perhaps, we take our break here and then start --1 2 THE COURT: We'll break until 1:00 o'clock. Thank 3 you. 4 (Court recessed at 12:19 p.m.) 5 6 7 CERTIFICATE 8 9 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript 10 from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter, to 11 the best of my ability. 12 This record was taken through video or telephone 13 conference which may have affected the quality of the record. 14 07-13-2020 By: /s/Gayle L. Dye 15 16 Gayle L. Dye, CSR, RDR, CRR Date 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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